

*A Guide to Sources
at
the City of Richmond Archives
Relating to*

London Farm

32. A Farmer's Residence.
Steveston, B. C.
September, 1908.



Produced by the staff of the City of Richmond Archives, April 1996.

Table of Contents
Sources Relating to London Farm

Introduction 1

Maps and Plans 2

Municipal Records 10

Government Publications 19

Community Records 20

Oral Histories 21

Biography Files 22

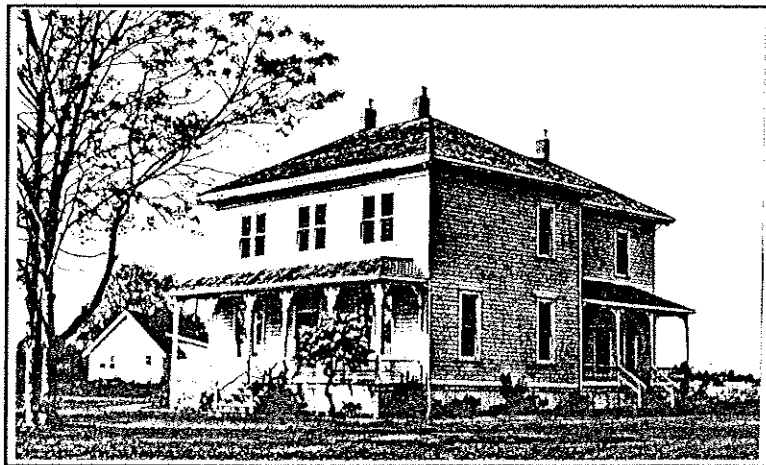
Reference Files 25

Richmond Reflections 27

Undescribed Material 31

Photographs 32

How To Reach Us 71



London farm. -- [ca. 1984]. (#1984 4 31)

Introduction

What is in the Archives?

The City of Richmond Archives has records about Richmond. These records vary in form and include textual records, photographs, maps, plans, audio and video tape. The Archives holds municipal public records such as Council minutes and Bylaws as well as community records such as family photographs or records of various organizations.

How will you find the records you need?

When you first enter the Archives you may browse through the reference room. There you will find a series of binders which describe the various records contained in the Archives. These binders include indices, descriptions, and file lists. They vary according to the type of record they describe or the type of search they are designed to assist. Collectively they can be called "finding aids."

*Finding aids are intended to be user-friendly and self-serve. However, their range and variety may leave you wondering where to start. **If you are interested in London Farm or the London Family, you can start with this guide. The Archives staff have consulted all the finding aids and compiled this guide to make your research experience more efficient and successful.** The guide contains references to materials that relate to London Farm. Of course, if you require further assistance or clarification or if you come in to the Archives to consult one of the sources directly, the Archives staff are happy to help you.*

What happens when the records arrive?

Since archives are one-of-a-kind originals, they must be consulted in the Archives reference room; material is not loaned out. Photocopying services are available, however there may be restrictions on copying due to the fragility of the records. Photographic copying and microfilm copying can also be arranged on a cost-recovery basis. So even though it is not possible to loan material out of the Archives, we make every effort to provide public access to the material.

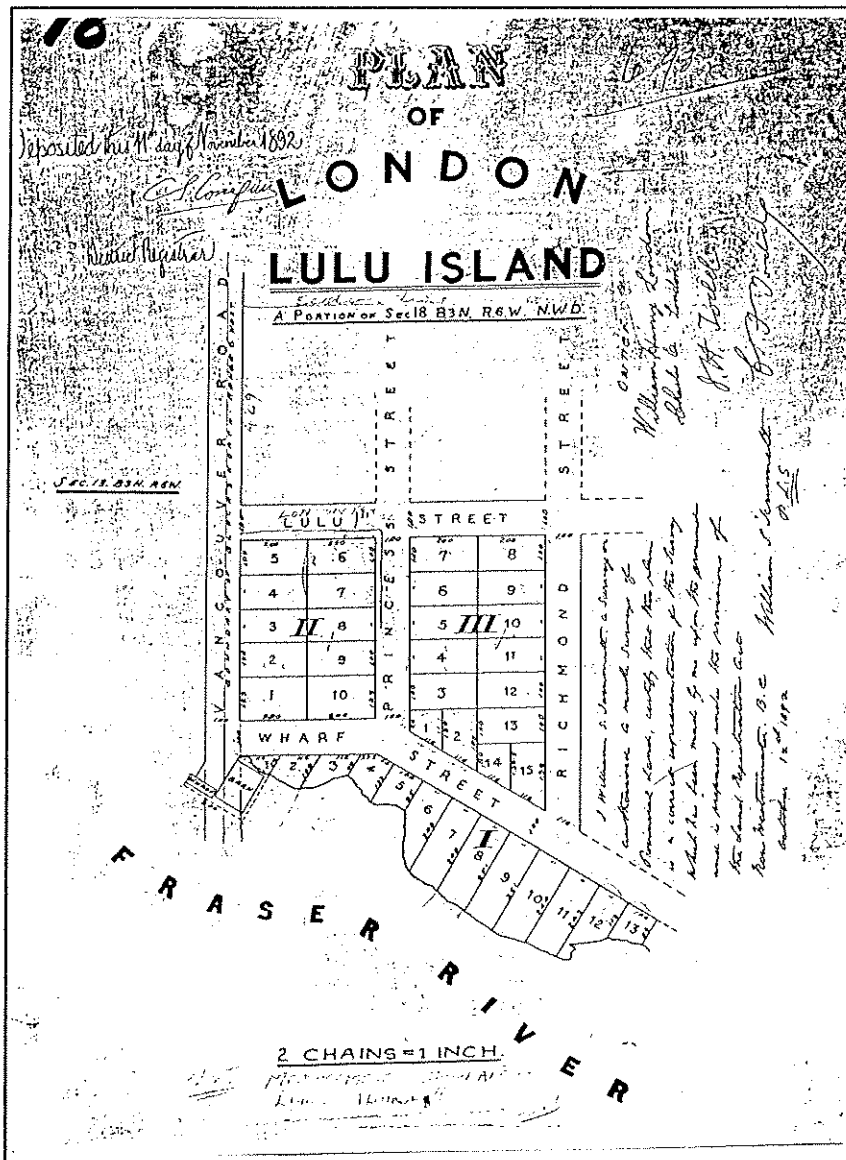
Conducting your research

Only you, the researcher, can do your own research effectively. As you search through records for answers to your questions you will encounter many side issues and clues to further information. They may be irrelevant, they may be red herrings, or they may provide the key that solves the riddle. Only the questioner can sift through the facts and arrive at the truth. This is at the very heart of research; it is what makes it the tremendously satisfying challenge that it is.

Maps and Plans

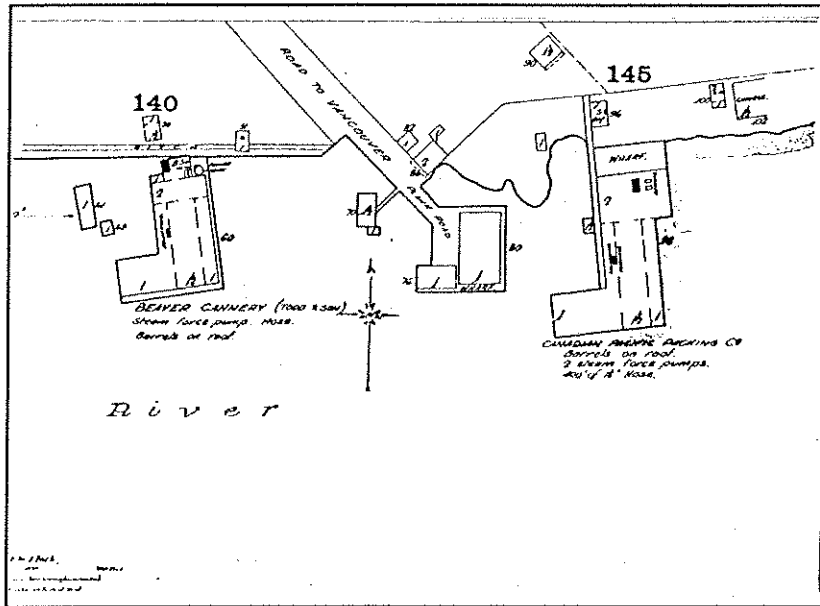
The Archives has a wide range of maps and plans specific to Richmond. These go well beyond published street maps to include specialized maps documenting soils, vegetation, structures, etc. There are many maps, plans, and aerial photographs that depict all of Richmond or the south arm area in general, including London farm. The following are the most specific examples from the holdings relating to London farm.

Maps and Plans Relating to London Farm and London Road area

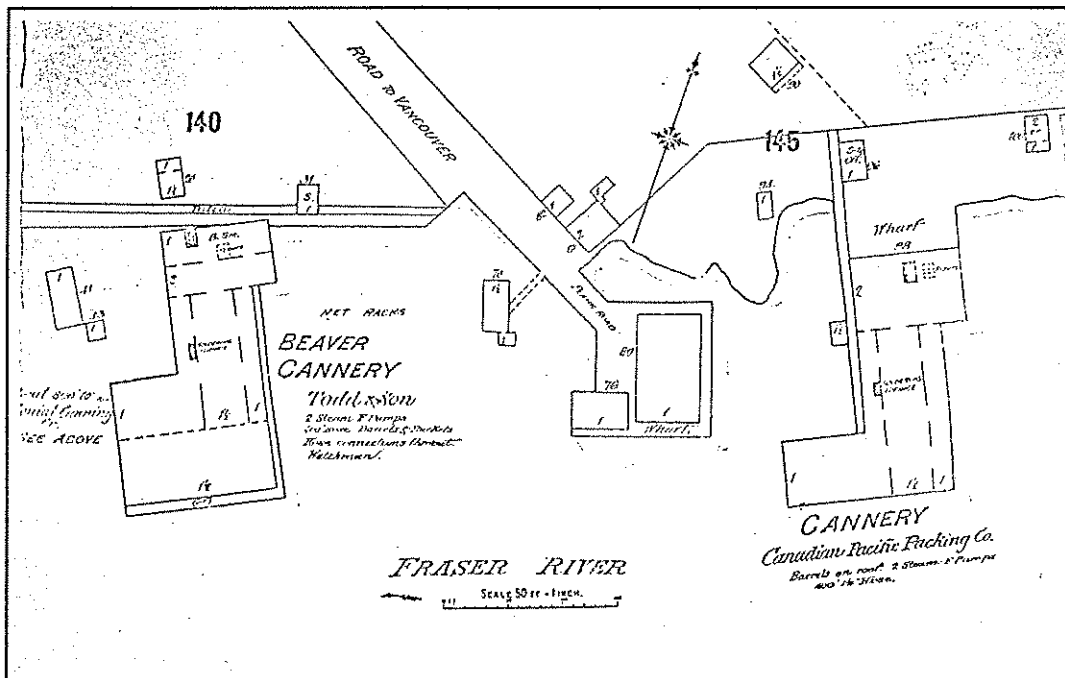


Plan of London, Lulu Island. -- 1892. (MP 232) 1987 78 1

Maps and Plans Relating to London Farm and London Road area ... (Continued)

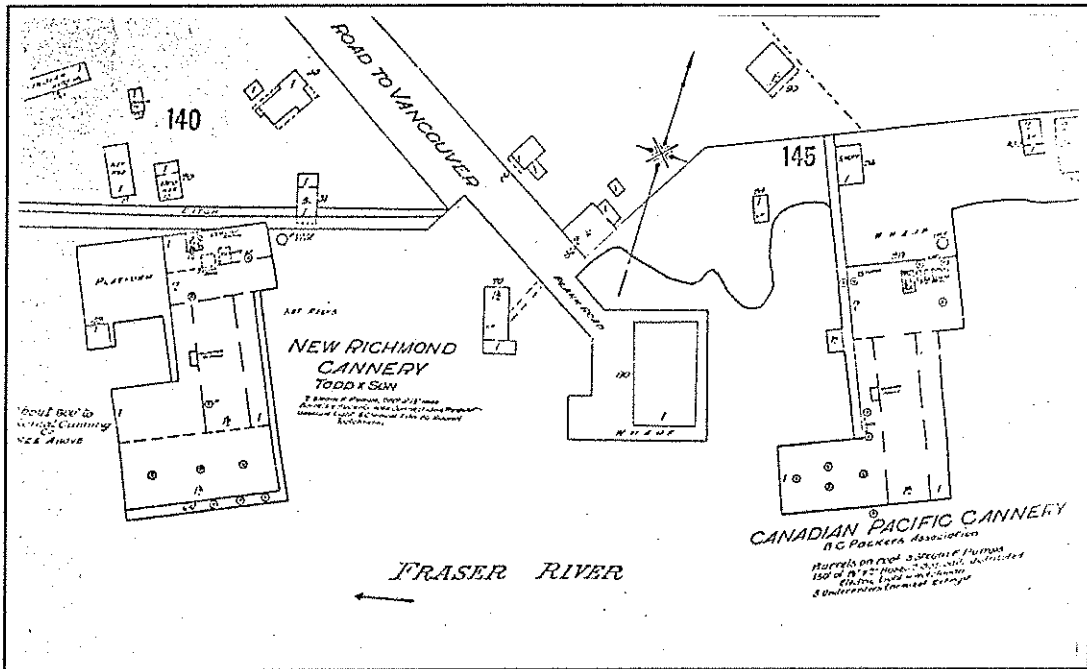


Insurance map of Steveston, B.C. -- 1895. (MP 67 B)

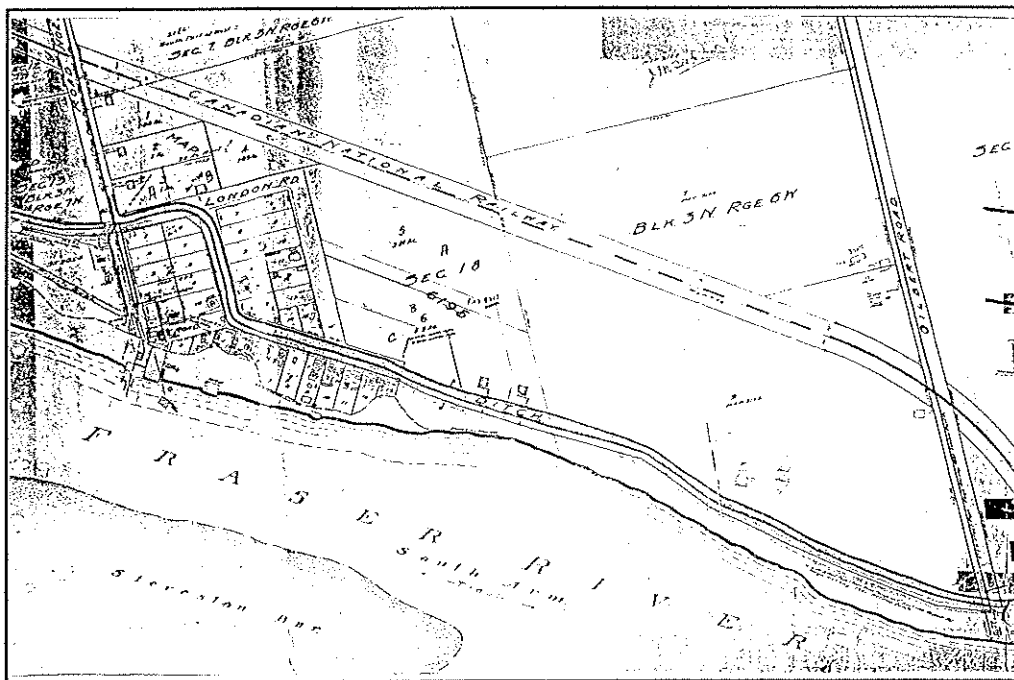


Insurance map of Steveston, B.C. -- 1897. (MP 67 I)

Maps and Plans Relating to London Farm and London Road area ... (Continued)

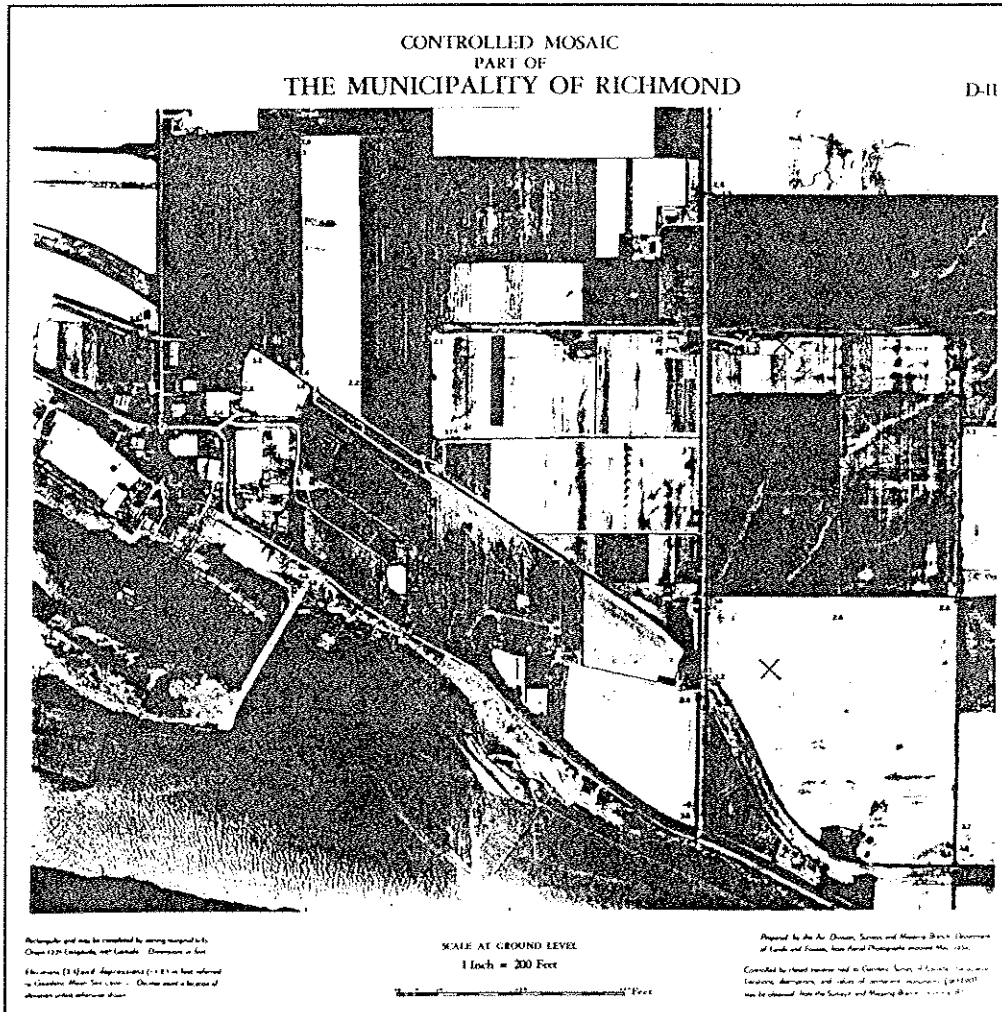


Insurance map of Steveston, B.C. -- 1911. (MP 67 K)



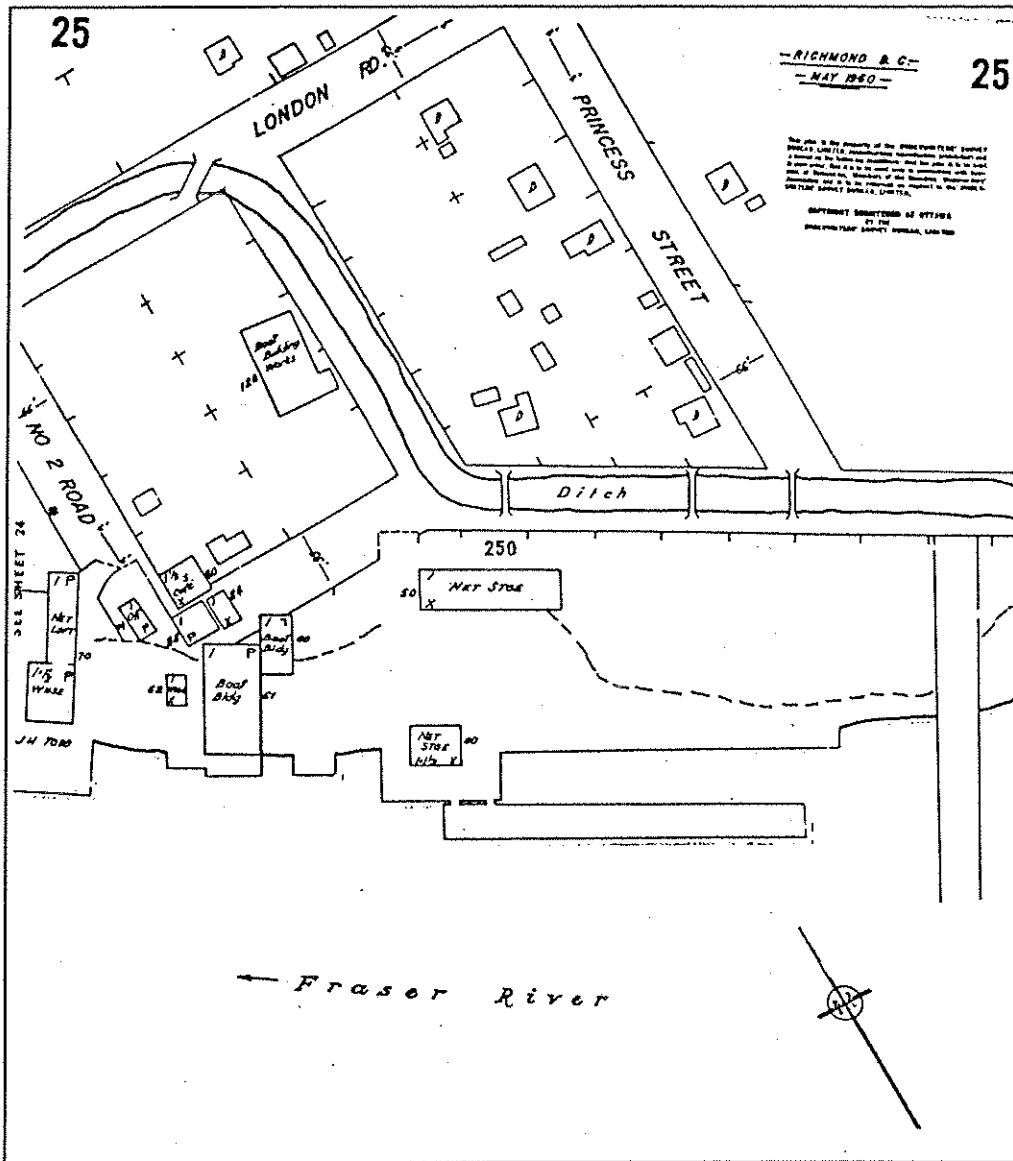
Waterworks atlas map of south arm waterfront area. -- 1936. (#1991 40 24)

Maps and Plans Relating to London Farm and London Road area ... (Continued)



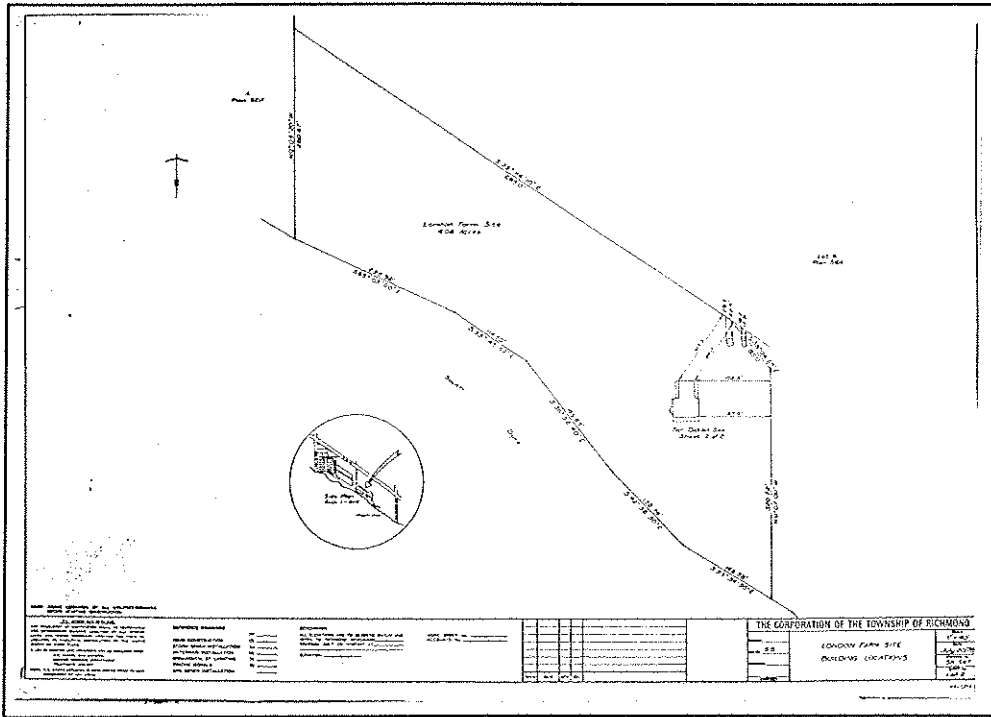
Controlled mosaic (aerial photograph) of London Farm and London Road area. -- 1954.
(#1987 44 38)

Maps and Plans Relating to London Farm and London Road area ... (Continued)

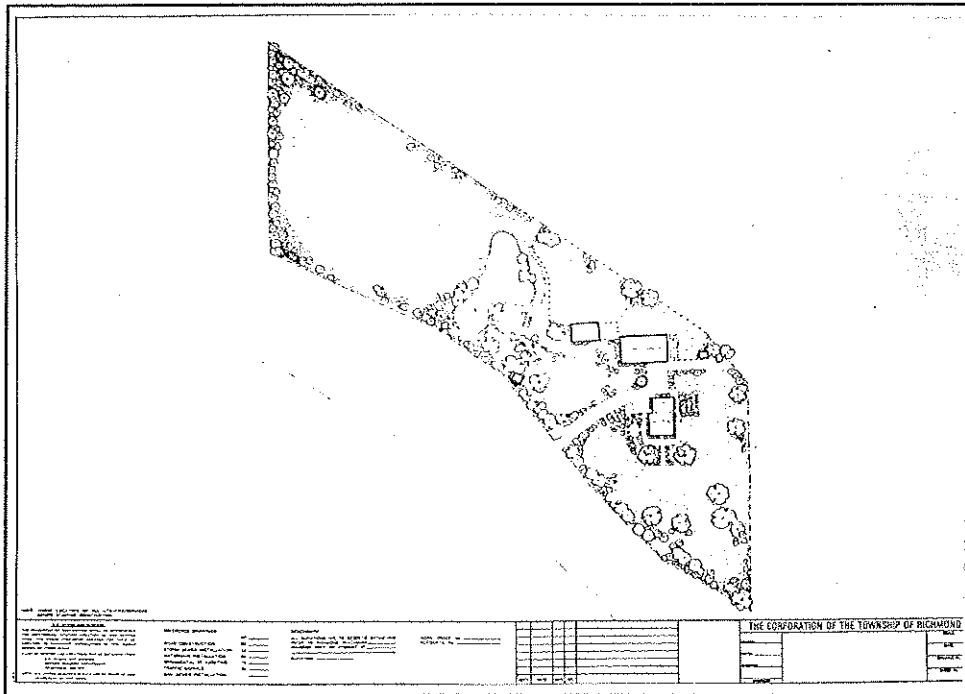


Insurance plan of Richmond, B.C., London Road area. -- 1960. (#1985 146 29)

Maps and Plans Relating to London Farm and London Road area ... (Continued)

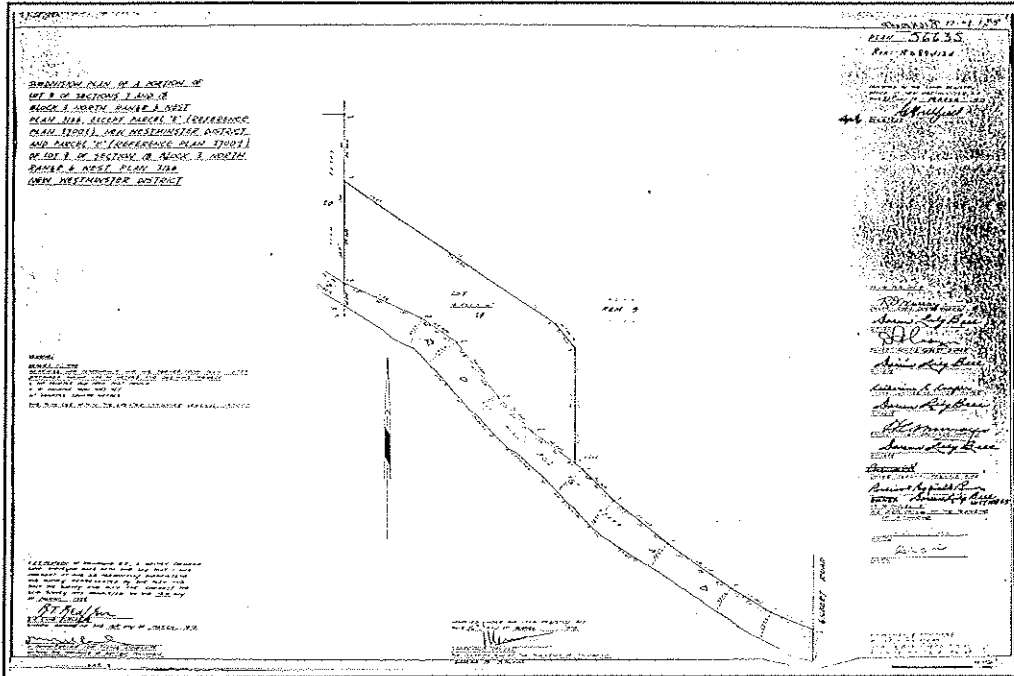


London farm site building locations. -- 1978. (MP 34 A)

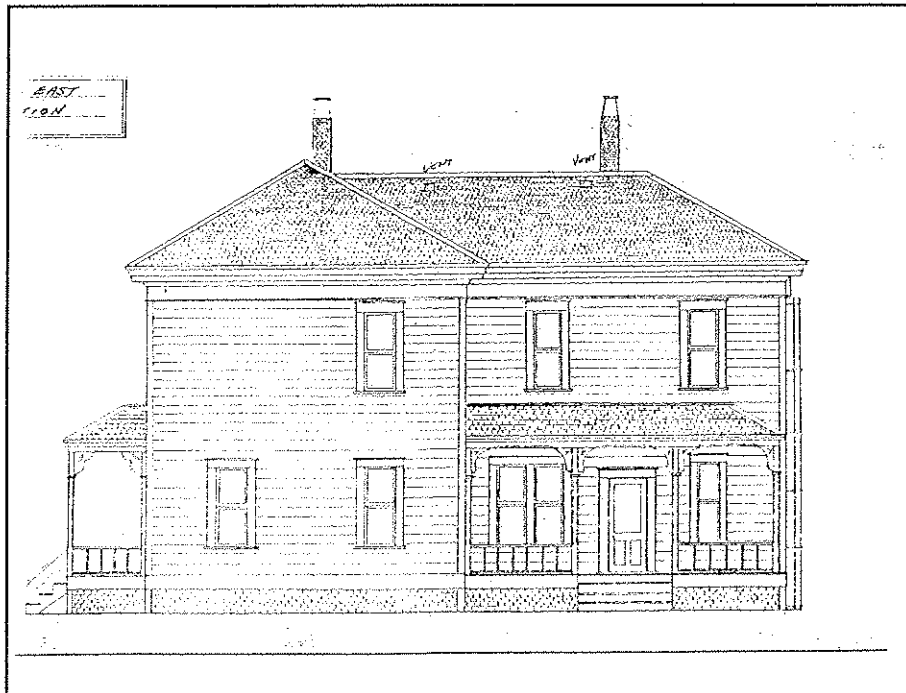


Landscape plan for London farm site. -- 1978. (MP 34 C)

Maps and Plans Relating to London Farm and London Road area ... (Continued)

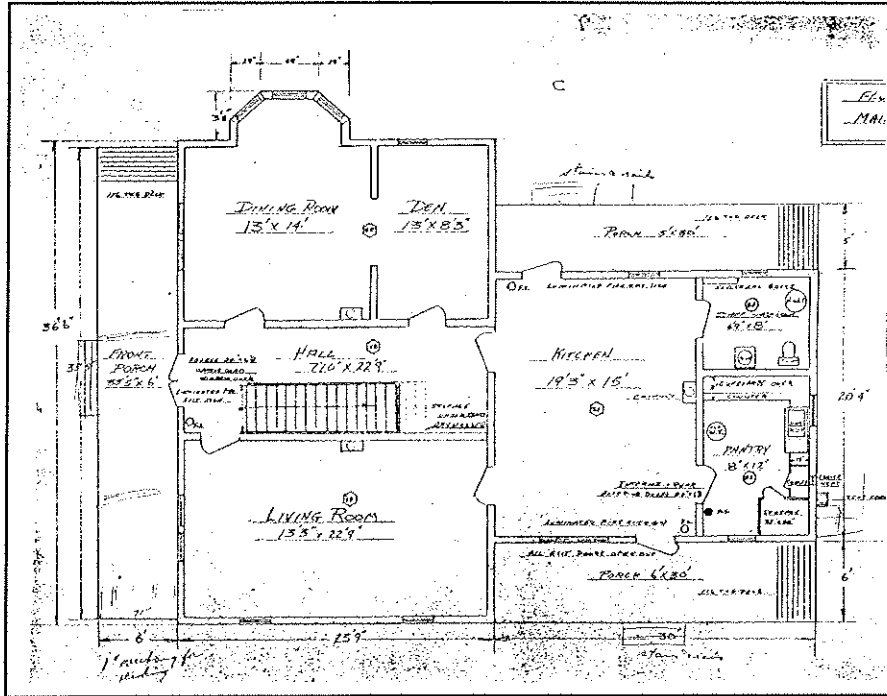


Subdivision plan for London farm site. -- 1979. (MP 33 A)

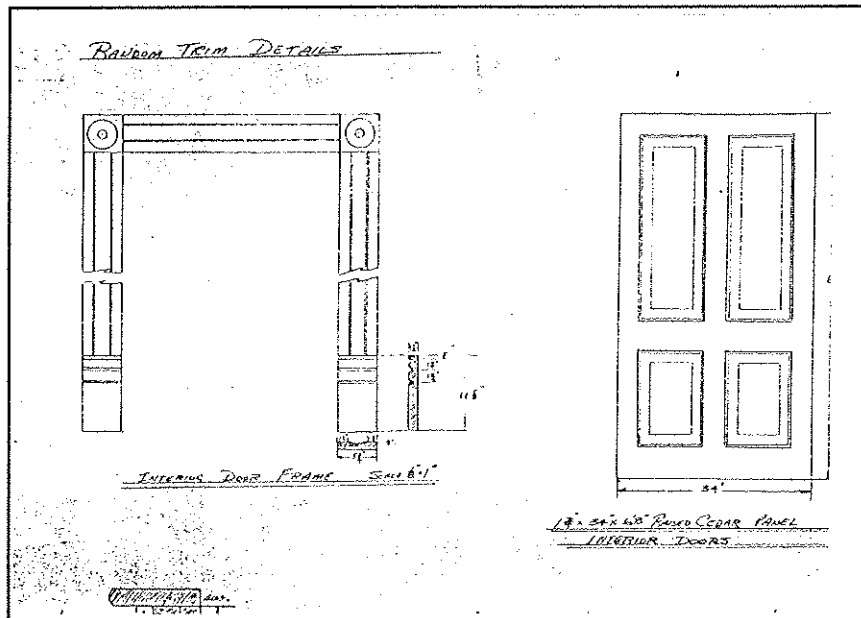


(Excerpts from) London farmhouse architectural as-found drawings. -- 1980. (Acc. 1994 16)

Maps and Plans Relating to London Farm and London Road area ... (Continued)



(Excerpts from) London farmhouse architectural as-found drawings. -- 1980. (Acc. 1994 16)



(Excerpts from) London farmhouse architectural as-found drawings. -- 1980. (Acc. 1994 16)

Municipal Records

Municipal records are created by the local government authorities in the course of regular administrative work. These range from City Council minutes and bylaws to records produced by the various city departments and agencies. The subjects that are addressed by municipal records correspond to the broad range of functions for which the local government is responsible, such as public works administration, health services, fire protection, leisure services, urban development, permit issuance, and, of course, heritage planning and administration.

Municipal Records Relating to London Farm: Bylaws

- Bylaw No. 3407 A Bylaw to designate a heritage building (1977) Abandoned
This first attempt to designate the London Farm heritage site was abandoned because of procedural difficulties relating to a legal conflict between the Municipal Act and the Heritage Conservation Act.
- Bylaw No. 3515 A Bylaw to Designate a Building as a Municipal Heritage Site (1977)
The London Farm House heritage bylaw designated the building as a municipal heritage site pursuant to the Heritage Conservation Act.
- Bylaw No. 3528 A Bylaw to Designate Land as a Municipal Heritage Site (1977)
The London Farmlands heritage bylaw designated the 22 acre site at 13811 Gilbert Road as a municipal heritage site.
- Bylaw No. 3711 A Bylaw to revoke a designation of certain lands as a Municipal Heritage Site (1979)
This London Farmlands Heritage Site Partial Revocation Bylaw removed the heritage designation from all but a specific 4.06 acre parcel of land.
- Bylaw No. 3712 A Bylaw to authorize the acquisition of certain property located at London Farm within the Municipality for Municipal purposes (1979)
Land Purchase Bylaw No. 163 authorized the purchase of the 4.06 acre parcel of land that retained heritage designation according to Bylaw No. 3711.

Municipal Records Relating to London Farm: City Council Minutes - Excerpts from Index

- 1974 Steveston Pioneer Village
Relocation of old buildings and preservation of same for a
Steveston Pioneer Village and purchase of London Farm
for the site Pages 333, 399-400, 447-8

Municipal Records Relating to London Farm: City Council Minutes - Excerpts from Index

... (Continued)

1975 Historical Sites
Report from Parks and Recreation Commission re: designation
of London Farm and portion of Garry Point as historical sites Pages 1184, 1253

1976 Historical Sites
Report from the Planning Committee re London Farm - recommended
that the necessary by-law be prepared to declaring the farm as
an Historic Site, subject to the recommendations of the Finance
Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission Pages 1153-54, 1236

COW - May 25th, 1976 - Mr. C. Woods ... addressed Committee in
in connection with correspondence received from the Richmond
Historical & Museum Advisory Committee addressed to Council
recommending that the London Farm residence and adjacent area
be declared an historic site Page 1202

Correspondence from the Richmond Historical & Museum Advisory
Committee re the declaration of London Farm as an Historic Site Page 2025

Richmond Historical and Museum Advisory Committee
Correspondence recommending that the London Farm residence and
adjacent area be declared an historic site. Referred to Planning
Committee, Finance Committee and Parks and Recreation Commission Page 1040



London farmhouse prior to heritage designation. -- [ca. 1977].
(#1978 29 7)

Municipal Records Relating to London Farm: City Council Minutes - Excerpts from Index

... (Continued)

1977 Historical Sites

Correspondence received from the Richmond Historical & Museum Advisory Committee regarding London Farm and the preserving of same as an historic site Pages 306-7

Committee of the Whole - February 28, 1977 - Mr. C. Woods, Chairman of the Richmond Historical and Museum Advisory Committee, interviewed Committee urging that action be taken immediately to save the London Farm house from demolition Pages 466-68, 473

Correspondence received from H.C. Murray regarding the declaration of the London Farm house as a heritage building Pages 453-54

Committee of the Whole - March 14, 1977 - Two letters introduced from H.C. Murray dated March 4 and 10, 1977, protesting the proposed designation of the London Farm house as a heritage structure Pages 578-80

Correspondence received from H.C. Murray regarding 13811 Gilbert Road and a proposed donation to the Municipality of the structure on the property Page 557

Correspondence received from H.C. Murray regarding 13811 Gilbert Road and dealing with the original London Farm house Pages 557-58

Correspondence received from the Department of Municipal Affairs regarding Heritage Designation Bylaw No. 3407 Page 720

Committee of the Whole - March 28, 1977 - Presentation by Mr. C. Woods of the Richmond Historical & Museum Society regarding London Farm house Pages 735-36, 744-54

Correspondence received from H.C. Murray regarding London Farm Page 810

Committee of the Whole - May 24, 1977 - regarding London Farm, for which historical data has been forwarded to Victoria, where the designation bylaw is under review Page 1242

Report from the Finance Committee regarding the proposal for purchase of the London Farm property Pages 1573,1643

Municipal Records Relating to London Farm: City Council Minutes - Excerpts from Index

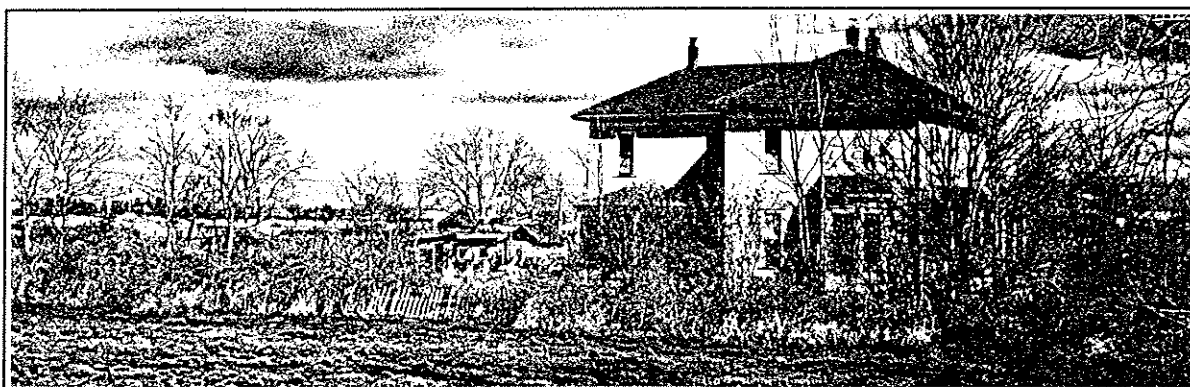
... (Continued)

1977 Historical Sites

Correspondence received from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing regarding Heritage Designation By-law No. 3407 - Referred to the Municipal Solicitor for consideration as to the legal interpretation of Bill 77 for report back to Council Page 2191

Report from the Municipal Solicitor regarding the Heritage Conservation Act and Heritage Designation By-law No. 3407 Pages 2287-8, 2419-22

October 24, 1977 - resolution adopted by Council ratifying action of Committee of the Whole "In Camera" in establishing a 30 day period in which no damage shall take place against the London Farm building Page 2487



London farm prior to heritage designation. -- 1977. (#1984 4 3)

November 14, 1977 - resolution adopted by Council that the Municipal Solicitor be permitted to use information regarding the appraised value of the London Farm house submitted by Land Agent at an "In Camera" meeting held June 27, 1977 Page 2620

November 14, 1977 - resolution adopted by Council in directing that for a period of 30 days, no person shall damage or destroy the said lands and other buildings known as London Farm Page 2620

November 14, 1977 - resolution adopted by Council directing that the Law Dept. prepare a report for the present Council defining the inadequacies of the Heritage Conservation legislation, for preparation of a submission to the Provincial Government Page 2621

Municipal Records Relating to London Farm: City Council Minutes - Excerpts from Index

... (Continued)

1978 Historical Sites

Report from the Municipal Solicitor regarding Bylaw No. 3515
"The London Farm Heritage Bylaw" and Bylaw No. 3528 "London Farm
Lands Heritage Bylaw" Pages 28, 63-66

Minutes of the special meeting held January 3, 1978 to discuss
Bylaw No. 3515, London Farm House Heritage Bylaw, and Bylaw No.
3528, London Farmlands Heritage Bylaw Pages 268-78

Minutes of the meeting of Committee of the Whole held January 3,
1978 at which time Bylaw Nos. 3515 and 3528 were considered at
the public meeting Page 281

Report from the Municipal Solicitor regarding the Municipal Act,
Section 714A - Bylaw No. 3407, Original London Farm House
Designation Bylaw Pages 291-2, 368

Committee of the Whole - January 9, 1978. Mayor G.J. Blair, as
chairman, invited presentations on Bylaw No. 3515 "London Farm
House Heritage By-Law" and Bylaw No. 3528 "London Farm Heritage
By-Law" as a follow-up to the Hearing in Public Pages 415-9, 425-41

Report from the Municipal Clerk regarding Bylaw No. 3528 "London
Farmlands Heritage By-Law" Pages 717-8, 868

Report from the Municipal Solicitor regarding H.C. Murray vs.
The Corporation of Richmond and London Farmlands Heritage Bylaw
No. 3528, advising that Mr. Murray had brought an application to
quash Bylaw No. 3528 - Application Dismissed Pages 1100, 1198

Report from the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding London Farm Pages 2139-40, 2265

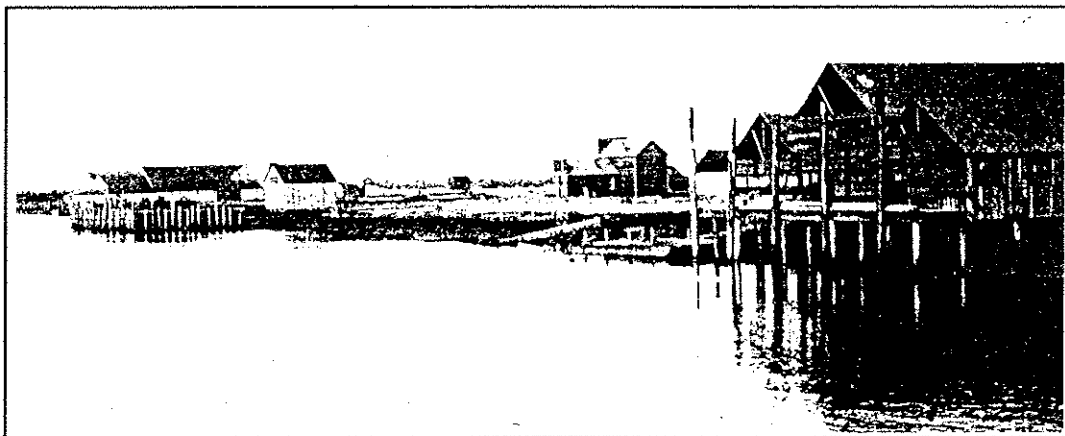
Committee of the Whole - June 26, 1978 - Mrs. Romanyk appeared
before Committee and requested the present status of London Farm.
Alderman R.A. McMath provided the necessary details Pages 2329-30, 2353

1979 Historical Sites

Correspondence received from the Richmond Historical & Museum
Society requesting a meeting with Municipal Council to discuss
London Farm policy - Referred to the Parks & Recreation Commission Page 52

Municipal Records Relating to London Farm: City Council Minutes - Excerpts from Index
... (Continued)

- 1979 Historical Sites
Report from the Land Agent regarding London Farm Pages 260-1, 363
- August 13, 1979 - Resolution adopted in directing that Parks &
Recreation Commission prepare an overall park design site plan
for the London Farm property Page 2065
- 1980 Historical Sites
Report from Parks and Recreation Commission regarding London
Farm Museum Operating Agreement Pages 24-5, 54-56
- Report from the Municipal Solicitor regarding the London Farm
Museum Operating Agreement Pages 97-8, 126-8
- Report from the Municipal Solicitor regarding the London Farm
Agreement Pages 266-7, 387
- Report from Parks and Recreation Commission regarding London Farm Pages 267, 396
- Correspondence received from the B.C. Heritage Trust regarding
a grant of \$50,000 for London Farmhouse Pages 1134, 1226
- 1981 Historical Sites
Correspondence received from the Richmond Historical & Museum
Society requesting permission to call London Farm "London's Landing" Pages 699, 768



London's Landing showing post office, church and general store. -- [ca. 1900] (#1984 17 10)

Municipal Records Relating to London Farm: City Council Minutes - Excerpts from Index
... (Continued)

- 1981 Historical Sites
Report from the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding the
renaming of London Farm Pages 1871, 1913
- Committee of the Whole - August 24, 1981 - Mrs. M. Romanyk,
Richmond Historical Society, appeared before Committee regarding
the renaming of London Farm Pages 1996-7
- 1982 Historical Sites
Report from the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding the
Heritage Designation of the Hall House - London Farm Pages 963, 1040
- Report from the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding the
London Farm Site Plan Pages 1185, 1272
- Report from the Parks & Recreation Commission regarding the
London Farm Site Plan Pages 1640, 1757
- Good & Welfare - June 28, 1982 - Alderman E.T. Novakowski
advised that he was the Master of Ceremonies at the unveiling
of a heritage plaque at the London Farm house on June 20, 1982 Page 1646
- Report from Parks & Rec. Comm. regarding London Farm Development Pages 2770, 2816
- 1983 Historical Sites
Report from the Manager - Building Design and Construction and the
Deputy Director of Leisure Services regarding the London Farm
Caretaker's Suite Pages 2371, 2469-70
- 1990 London's Landing Site
Demolition of Ferry Building June 25, Page 19
- Designation as Heritage Site March 26, Page 4
- Program plan June 25, Pages 18-19
- Site Lease with Richmond Historical and Museum Society June 25, Page 19

Municipal Records Relating to London Farm: Departmental Records

I. Municipal Record Series 184 - DEVELOPMENT

File 5308 - London farm heritage site. -- 1973-1979.

File 5308 - London farm heritage site. -- 1980-1985.

These two Planning Department files contain a broad range of records relating to London Farm including the following:

- *a submission to the School Board from the Farm Establishment Committee re purchase of London property to establish a Farm Park and a Historic Site. (1973)*
- *memos between the School Board and the City re investigating possibility of purchasing London property*
- *internal City memos re evaluating value of the property*
- *a Planning Committee report on the London Farm/ Historic village concept (April 1973)*
- *a copy of Council minutes wherein the Planning Department report is discussed and adopted (April 24, 1973)*
- *a copy of the report to Council from the Parks & Recreation Commission re preservation of Historic Buildings (1975) recommending that a bylaw be enacted for the heritage designation of London Farm;*
- *memos and correspondence relating to the drafting of the London Farm bylaw*
- *memos relating to securing the London Farm property*
- *background historical information compiled to support heritage designation*
- *copies of newspaper clippings re the London Farm public debate*
- *correspondence between the City and the owners of the property re acquisition and negotiation for the London Farm property.*
- *a copy of Bylaw 3528: A Bylaw to Designate Land as a Municipal Heritage Site and a copy of Bylaw 3515: A Bylaw to Designate a Building as a Municipal Heritage Site*
- *material relating to the London Farm "Hearing in Public"*
- *minutes of a meeting to discuss the establishment of a Heritage Advisory Committee (Jan 11, 1979)*
- *copies of Bylaw No.3711 (partial revocation of heritage designation for London Farm Site) and Land Purchase Bylaw No. 3712 (London Farm Site)*
- *records relating to an application to the BC Supreme Court on behalf of the owners of the London Farm property to Quash the two Heritage Designation bylaws (application was dismissed) (1979)*
- *a copy of the London Farm Museum agreement dated Feb 1, 1980 wherein the City and the Society agree upon terms for the maintenance and operation of London Farm (attached is a landscaping plan of the site)*
- *correspondence between the Society and the City from 1985 indicating that the Society is no longer able to operate London Farm.*

Municipal Records Relating to London Farm: Departmental Records

II. Municipal Record Series 69 - ADMINISTRATOR'S SUBJECT FILES

File 288 - Administrator - London Farm property. -- 1976-1982.

File 554 - Administrator - London Farm. -- 1985.

File 572 - Administrator - RH&MS. -- 1985.

These three Administrator's files contain records relating to London Farm including the following:

- *copies of many of the Planning Department records described herein relating to the proposals for London Farm, the acquisition of the land and buildings, and the maintenance and operation of the facility.*
- *correspondence from the Richmond Historical & Museum Society indicating that the Society can no longer operate London Farm; and the City's response requesting a certified copy of an adopted resolution before acting.*
- *correspondence outlining the Society's new Executive for 1985.*

III. Municipal Record Series 90 - LEISURE SERVICES SUBJECT FILES

File 103 - London Farm. -- 1979.

This file contains a few records relating to London Farm including:

- *records re fencing of London Farm property.*
- *records relating to the possibility of moving the Ransford House to London Farm; the Richmond Historical & Museum Society requests funds for moving the house; the request was turned down.*

IV. Richmond Heritage Advisory Committee sous-fonds

File 1-3-145 London Farm and London's Landing (6511 Dyke Road and south of dyke) research file. -- 1988-1989.

File 1-3-146 6511 Dyke Road (London Farm and London's Landing) research file. -- 1988-1989.

File 1-3-147 6511 Dyke Road London Farm research file. -- 1988-1989.

These three files were compiled by researchers while working on the heritage inventory. Although the files contain hardly any original material, that is, they consist primarily of copies of archival and published material gathered from many different sources, they are good starting points for anyone who wants a general overview of the London Farm heritage site.

Government Publications

Government Publications are publications and reports produced by City of Richmond staff or commissioned by the City and produced by independent consultants. These include planning studies, engineering reports, surveys and general information publications specific to Richmond. Reference copies are available at the Archives and are accessible through Subject, Author and Title indices.

Government Publications Relating to London Farm

- 1990 **A history of London area, Richmond, 1800-1990** / Prepared for Parks and Leisure Services Department, City of Richmond by Diana L. Bodnar, Architectural Historian.
(29 pages with illustrations and maps).
Item Number: GP 317.
- 1992 **A history of London, Lulu Island, Richmond** / Prepared for Parks and Leisure Services & Planning Department, City of Richmond [by] Marie A. Bannister.
(52 pages with illustrations and maps).
Item Number: GP 215.

These well-researched reports commissioned by the City of Richmond provide an excellent historical overview of the London's Landing area. Bannister's 1992 report expands on the research of Bodner's 1990 report. Both reports provide summaries, introductions, detailed chronologies, footnotes, bibliographies, maps, illustrations and analysis of the London area within the context of specific themes. Good use is made of published and archival sources.

The economic themes - transportation, communication, agriculture, fishing, canning, boat building - focus on the wharf at London's Landing as the most significant factor in the development of the community. The authors maintain that the London area naturally became a commercial and service centre given that London's Landing was a regular stop for all types of ships navigating the south arm of the Fraser River. Accounts are given of the establishment of the post office, the construction of No.2 Road, the operation of various ferrying services, the dyking and cultivation of neighbouring farmlands, and the establishment of local fishing-based businesses.

The authors also touch on various social themes such as education, religion, family life and local political activity. They note that during its peak, the London area ran a school out of a church, conducted various religious services, and that local individuals, including members of the London family, were influential on the local political scene. In their conclusions, the London area is described as having its "hey day" in the 1880s and 1890s and its decline after World War I as the growing community of Steveston began to drain away London's local economic activity.

The reports close with the recommendation that the history of the London area be interpreted for the knowledge and enjoyment of the people of Richmond.

Community Records

Community records include archival material donated by individuals, families and organizations in the community.

Community Records Relating to London Farm and the London Family

- I. Blair family fonds. -- [ca. 1900-1956].
Series 5. London family. -- [ca. 1900-1915].

The Blair family fonds consists primarily of formal studio portraits of the Blair family and its extended family. Series number five consists of seven photographs of Mr. & Mrs. Charles London and their children, Edwin, Lewis, Lucy, May and Florence. The London family photographs from the Blair family fonds are featured in the Photographs Section of this guide (Photograph numbers 1985 184 26 to 1985 184 32). (Pictured below: London family. -- ca.1915 - #1985 184 32).



- II. Richmond Historical and Museum Advisory Committee / Society fonds. -- 1966-onward.

The Richmond Historical and Museum Advisory Committee / Society fonds consists of correspondence, minutes and the Society constitution. Unfortunately, a fuller description of the records is not available since the records of the Society have not yet been fully processed by the Archives staff. However, given the involvement of the RH&MS in the operation of the London Farm facility, it is likely that the records of the Society can provide information relating to the functioning of the heritage site. (See Accession 1985 42 - MSS 25 and Accession 1994 15).

Oral Histories

The Oral History Collection consists of approximately 400 recorded interviews with various individuals. The Collection is indexed by name and subject and interview summaries are available at the Archives.

Oral Histories Relating to London Farm

Interview with **Mr. and Mrs. H. Howse (nee Lucy London)**, February 15, 1972: *Mrs. Howse discusses her early life at London's Landing, the features of the community, and the introduction of electricity and other modern services.*

Interview with **May Mack (nee May London)**, February 22, 1972: *Mrs. Mack discusses her family, the simple pleasures of growing up on a farm, and her life after marrying and leaving Richmond.*



Lucy and May London. -- [ca. 1900]. (#1985 184 28)

Biography Files

Biography Files contain obituary notices and other biographical information relating to selected families and residents of Richmond. The files are available at the Archives.

London Family Biography File

The London Family Biography File contains the following material:

- Obituary notices for Charles E. London, George William London, Jean London and William Edwin London (Copies appear on the following pages of this guide).
- Biographical notes on William Henry London and Charles Edwin London (no date).
- An information sheet entitled "Factual information on Richmond schools" for Charles E. London Elementary School which includes a brief biographical sketch (compiled in 1970).
- A Richmond Reflections article which includes biographical information on five generations of Charles E. London's descendants, Richmond Review, June 17, 1984.
- A copy of a B.C. Centennial "Pioneer Medallion Application Form" for Winnifred Minnie London which includes biographical and family information (1966).
- A copy of the programme for the official opening of Charles E. London Elementary School on November 18, 1965 which includes a biographical sketch.

The Vancouver Sun, July 17, 1941 page 16.

C.E. London dies, aged 60.

A pioneer who played a prominent part in the early life of Lulu Island, Charles Ernest London, 60, died Tuesday in Vancouver General Hospital.

A native of Ontario, Mr. London came to Lulu Island with his brother William London in 1880.

They settled on No. 2 Rd., and there developed the London Cannery. They soon began to make improvements in the community and when the wharf at their establishment was completed the Victoria boats could then land there.

Mail was brought in to the Lulu Island, P.O. which in 1894 became known as the London, Post Office.

In 1919 Charles London who was related to the well known Gilmore family on Lulu Island, sold his large farm out there for a good price.

Mr. London leaves two sons, Edwin, a Lulu Island farmer; and Louis, Vancouver; two daughters, Mrs. H.A. Howse, Steveston; Mrs. J.R. Mack, New Westminster; two grandsons, 7 granddaughters, 1 great grandson; a nephew George London, Westham Island.

Last Rites will be preformed at 2:30 P.M. Friday in Bell Funeral Home, by Rev. A. MacKay; burial Odd Fellows Cemetery, New Westminster.

Obituary notice for Charles Ernest London, Vancouver Sun, July 17, 1941.

London Family Biography File material ... (Continued)

Chas. London, Pioneer, Dies

A pioneer who is believed to have been the last survivor of the settlers who came to Lulu Island sixty years ago has passed away in the decease of Charles Ernest London. Mr. London came to Richmond when it was a wilderness of bog, hailing from Guelph, Ontario, and stopping for a time in California before coming on to the Island waste of Richmond.

Mr. Thomas Kidd, who preceded the Londons to the Island in 1874, writes of these early settlers as follows:

"The years 1880 and 1881 brought some new settlers in, among these being G. Gerard and London brothers, on the South Arm, and William Nicol on Sea Island. The London brothers also bought from Thos. McNeely, and began improvements in '81; and when No. 2 Road ditch was completed through the Island in 1883 their dyke and that of Gerard's were joined, so that the flood box at that end of the road could be put in to prevent the tide water from running into the Island."

This brief reference gives a glimpse of the early beginnings of Richmond of which the Londons had a part.

The farm now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Herb Howse, on the South Arm, was the original home of Mr. Chas. London. Mrs. Howse is a daughter of the deceased, she and her husband having bought the farm after Mr. London had first sold it. The farm contains 160 acres and through the dyking and developing efforts of Mr. London and his family has become one of the most productive homesteads on the Island.

The family grew up to take an active interest in affairs of the community, attending South Arm Church after it was built and being a part of the South Arm social life which in those earlier days cemented the settlers of this district into one big family of neighbors.

Mr. London has not been living in Richmond since 1919, when he moved to the city to retire. Death came Tuesday last in the Vancouver General Hospital. He is survived by two sons, Edwin, who resides at Brighthouse and who is employed at the Town Hall, and Louis; two daughters, Mrs. H. A. House, Steveston, Mrs. J. R. Mack, New Westminster; two grandsons, seven granddaughters, one great-grandson, and one nephew. Funeral services were held Saturday, 2:30 p.m. from the Bell Funeral Home to Odd Fellows' Cemetery, New Westminster, Rev. A. MacKay officiating.

Obituary notice for Charles Ernest London, Marpole-Richmond Review, July 23, 1941.

Rites held for Delta pioneer ^{Province} Dec. 4, 1956

DELTA—Funeral was held today for Mrs. Jeannie London, 79, one of the oldest remaining families in the Ladner area.

Mrs. London was born in Scotland and came to Westham Island when she was 13 years old in 1890. She lived on the island for 60 years. Her family lived in Delta for near 65 years.

She was a past-matron of the Eastern Star Lodge and was a charter member. She belonged for near 30 years.

Mrs. London was also a member of the Ladner United church.

She is survived by two sons, Richard Arthur, of Ottawa, and George Ernest, of Westham Island; a daughter, Hazel Irene, of Ladner; a sister, Mrs. Margaret Lee, Vancouver; a half-sister, Mrs. Walter Thompson, Concord, Cal.

Rev. N. J. Crees officiated at the ceremony held in Ladner United Church. Burial was at Fraser View Cemetery. Delta Funeral Home made the arrangements.

Obituary notice for Jean London, The Province, Dec. 4, 1956.

Pioneer Westham Isl. resident Laid to rest on Tuesday ^{Ladner Opt. Dist.} Dec. 6, 1956 P.1.

The funeral service for Jean London, widow of the late George W. London, of Westham Island, were held on December 4, in Ladner United Church, with Rev. N. J. Crees officiating.

The interment was at Fraser View Cemetery, Vancouver.

Mrs. London is survived by two sons, Richard Arthur of Ottawa and George Ernest of Westham Island. One daughter, Hazel Irene, Mrs. W. M. Davis, of Ladner; one sister, Mrs. Margaret Lee of Vancouver; and one half sister, Mrs. Walter Thompson, Concord, California. Also two grandsons Wayne and George.

Mrs. London was born in Scotland, Jean Dalzell, in 1877. She came to Canada as a child of 13. Her parents settled in the Delta. She married George London in 1879 and lived on Westham Island for nearly 60 years.

She was a past worthy matron of Fraser Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, a member of the Westham Island Sewing Circle, member of the Ladner United Church, and was generously interested in all community work.

During the last years, Mrs. London was an invalid, at first in a wheel-chair and later in bed. She was always cheerful and well spirited and it was a pleasure to visit her and listen to her interesting and up-to-date conversation.

Obituary notice for Jean London, Ladner Optimist, Dec. 6, 1956.

London Family Biography File material ... (Continued)

RICHMOND REVIEW MAY 12, 1965 p. 1
**Pioneer's Passing
Ends Richmond Era**

A chapter in early Richmond history came to a close last week with the death of an early pioneer and native son.

William Edwin London died May 6 in Vancouver General Hospital at the age of 75.

The son of Charles E. London was born in the family homestead at the south end of Number 2 Road in 1889 and farmed the land his father settled until 1921 when the farm was sold. His life was spent close to the soil where he was born.

In the beginning the farm contained about 300 acres. It has since been broken into small holdings but the family homestead and 25 ac

still intact between Gilbert and Number 2 near the dyke.

Mrs. London recalls the journey to the city with farm produce in horse and buggy was considered a real modern innovation. Prior to this farmers had to load their produce into boats and row down the river to the city market.

He is survived by his widow Winnifred who he wed in 1911, one daughter, Mrs. Herb Featherstone and four grandsons, all of Richmond and sisters Mrs. Herb House and Mrs. Roy Mack.

London's Landing and London School were named after this early family.

Obituary for William London, Richmond Review, May 12, 1965.

The Vancouver Sun, Jan 13, 1942. page 20.

George London, Pioneer Delta Farmer Dead.

A wellknown pioneer farmer of Westham Island, George William London, 72, died Monday.

Mr. London had been in good health up to last summer, when he suffered a stroke.

He was born in Durham County, Ontario, and when ten years of age came west with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Richard London who hewed out a farm on the rich delta land of Westham Island. Eventually Mr. London purchased the farm from his parents and continued to operate it with his sons until the time of his death.

Mr. and Mrs. London were married 45 years ago on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. H.M. Tiffen on Lulu Island.

Mr. London was prominent in Educational affairs of Delta. He served on Delta School Board for 20 years and retired only three years ago.

He was well known mason being a life member of Delta Masonic Lodge and a former member of the New Westminster Masonic Lodge.

Mr. London leaves his wife, a daughter Mrs. Walter Davis, Ladner; two sons George E., Westham Island and Group Capt. Richard A. with the R.C.A.F. in Montreal.

Funeral services will be conducted in Paterson Funeral Home, New Westminster, on Tuesday, at 2 P.M. Burial in the family plot, Fraser Cemetery.

Obituary notice for George William London, Vancouver Sun, Jan. 13, 1942.

GROWING UP ON LONDON FARM

THE MEMORIES OF MAY LONDON

The purpose of these pages is solely to give the volunteers and those associated with London Farm some authentic insight into the lives of the London family, their daily activities, their personalities, their joys and sorrows.

This is written in June 1998 when my mother is 97 years old. Her memory, in spite of her age, is remarkable and many of the things recorded here I have heard many times over the years so I believe this to be as accurate a record as any anecdotal historical writing can be, bearing in mind it is from her perspective.

We both hope that it will serve you well and are grateful for your dedication in preserving our heritage as well as that of other pioneer families.

Mary Mack Grant

GROWING UP ON LONDON FARM

THE MEMORIES OF MAY LONDON

1998

THE FAMILY

CHARLES ERNEST LONDON (Charlie)

B: Feb. 3, 1860 Harley, Ontario (near Brantford)

D: July 16, 1941 Vancouver, B.C.

HENRIETTA GREIRSON DALZEIL (Hetty)

B: April 15, 1870 Dalbeattie, Scotland

D: October 8, 1916 Steveston B.C.

CHILDREN

WILLIAM EDWIN (Ed) August 7, 1889 - May 6, 1965

CHARLES LESLIE August 23, 1891 - March 11, 1892 ***

GEORGE July 19, 1893 - October 14, 1893 ***

LEWIS ALEXANDER (Louie) October 14, 1897 - October 1964

LUCY MAY September 13, 1898 - October 24, 1993

MARY MARGARET (May) May 8, 1901 -

FLORENCE HENRIETTA (Florrie) August 4, 1904 - March 26, 1929

CHARLES ERNEST November 1, 1908 - April 26, 1909 ***

*** Died as an infant

My memories of my childhood at London Farm are very happy ones. Ed always said my mother and father treated each other very well and I never ever heard them argue. He always called her Mama. They made a very good home for all of us. Although my father was very involved with the early settlement of Steveston and the South Arm area, once he had a family his priority was his family and his neighbours.

PAPA (PA)

Papa was a generous, tolerant, affectionate man. He was, however, very strong in his convictions. We all gave him a good-night kiss until we were almost grown up. He had a very giving nature and I believe he enjoyed his family and worked hard to provide for them both in the necessities of life and in many other opportunities. As new labour saving things came along like washing machines and gas lamps he would get them to make the work easier and we had the telephone very early on. He was also very inventive and knowledgeable in farming and caring for animals. Neighbours would call on him for help when their cows had milk fever or they had a sick horse. Pa was open to learning new things all his life and dabbled in inventions. He also knew a good deal about the healing qualities of native plants. He enjoyed the simple pleasures in life.

MAMA

My mother must have been about 17 when she left Scotland to come to Canada because she had Ed when she was only 19. On the boat over she met the future Mrs. Archie Blair who was her close friend and neighbour all her life.

I remember Mama as being quite strict, a "Scot", and not openly affectionate as Pa was but she showed her love by deed rather than words. She worked very hard raising a large family. She enjoyed her garden, needlecrafts and was very committed to her church.

MY MOTHER'S FAMILY

Very early Pa brought all of my mother's immediate family over from Scotland. There was my widowed grandmother, Mary Dalzeil, Nellie, Jean, and the twins Margaret (Maggie) and Mary - my namesakes. None of the girls looked alike - even the twins. My Uncle Andy was already here and worked on ships. I don't know if he was the reason my mother came to this area or not.

Sometimes we would meet him on the dyke and he would tell us not to tell our mother we had seen him as he liked a little tippie and she definitely did not approve.

Gramdma Mary was a midwife. She attended Mrs. Tiffin who died in childbirth. Later she married Mr. Tiffin and raised the baby, Tini. Maggie and Mary went to live with her on the farm on the dyke near the end of No. 4 Road. It was a very nice home but they sold the home to James Gilmore and moved to Vancouver to the Mt. Pleasant area. Later Maggie married Norman Lee (children Fran and Walt) and Mary married Ken Davis (children Hudson and Charles). Nellie, at 16, married James Gilmore and had Sam, Les, Andy, Ed, Douglas, Sara Mary (Sis) and Tini. Jean married George London (who as Uncle Richard's son was my cousin but then became my uncle) and they lived on Westham Island just across the river. Their family was Bertie, George, Arthur and Hazel. Trips across the river by rowboat to visit them rank as some of the scariest of my childhood as I couldn't swim and was terrified of the water.

So my mother's family lived close by and played a big part in our childhood.

MY FATHER'S FAMILY

My father was descended from United Empire Loyalists who settled in Middlesex County in the Niagara peninsula in 1823. He was the ninth and youngest child of John (1811-1866) and Nancy (1820-1876) London. He and William, who was one year older, arrived in Richmond in 1877 when they were 17 and 18 years old. In 1880 they purchased 200 acres of farmland for \$10 an acre which they cleared and dyked. They established their farm, a general store and post office and built a wharf to get supplies and ship their milk and farm products (hay, oats) to New Westminster. In 1888 my parents were married. I never saw my Uncle William. I know he was a councillor from 1884-1887 and I think he was the one who ran the store while my father concentrated on the farm. He went to California where he died of TB. Lulu Frazee Bryson nursed him and he left her his share of the property.

In 1880 my father's oldest brother, Richard, and his wife Mariah came to B.C. and settled in Haney. With them they brought their surviving children George, Nancy and Mary. In Chilliwack Anne was born. They then moved to Westham Island where Elizabeth (Betsy), Martha, and Arthur were born. Of these children I remember only George who married my Aunt Jean, Betsy who married Mr. Davis, moved to Alberta and had 12 children and Martha who married a tugboat captain named Mr. Keenan, lived in Vancouver and died in childbirth. Arthur went to Ontario and married Cora Carey.

Of my father's family, other than Uncle Richard who was a real gentleman - very tall with a long beard- the only ones I remember are my aunt Anne London Allen who visited from Ontario with her children Luther and Gladys and my aunt Mary London Frazee who lived in California. Louie was named for her husband, Lewis. Their children were Lydia, Lulu, Bruce and J.L. Frazee.

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

ED

Ed was 12 years older than I. He was really good to we three girls but he was a terrible tease. He used to call me Mamie because it got my dander up. He was good-natured and well-liked. His favorite pastime was playing football and lacrosse. The teams used to play lacrosse in a field behind the house. Ed was a wonderful dancer and he taught we three girls to dance. Dances were a main form of entertainment in those days. Ed worked on the farm and on the threshing crews. He had a good ear and picked up a lot of Chinese from the hired help. One young Chinese hand thought he should become an interpreter he was so adept at learning the language.

He married Winnie McCulloch (also a good dancer). Their children were Margaret, Jimmie and Heather.

Following Ed were two infant boys: Charles in 1891 and George in 1893 who both survived only months. Louie wasn't born for another four years - when Ed was eight.

LOUIE

Louie was the most like my mother and, I think, perhaps her favorite although she didn't let it show. He also played lacrosse and was a very good dancer but didn't bother with us girls. Louie liked to perform in plays and one scene where he had to fall backwards out of a chair sticks in my mind. He was quite active in the church. He was a member of the church group, the Excelsior Bible Class. Like many other local boys Louie went overseas in the war. He was in a mounted unit. His mates gave him the nickname Jack after the author. He received the Military Medal for a very dangerous mission. He then went to officer's school and became a lieutenant. The Medal was presented to my father at the Cambie Street Grounds as Louie did not return home immediately after the war. My mother had died while he was away.

He came home and then returned to England for a couple of years. When he came home again he lived with Ed and Winnie in Vancouver for a while. He later married Jean Calvert. Their children are Bill and Joan. I really don't remember Louie too well. I know he was very good to Pa in his last years.

LUCY

Lucy was by far the most venturesome of we three girls and the strongest - almost a tomboy. She was the one who drove the horse and buggy and rode the Shetland pony. She even put on gloves and boxed with the boys. She and I both took piano lessons, first at home (I remember Miss Van Sickle) and later I went to Vancouver by tram on Saturdays to Mrs. Smith. Lucy was much the better player of the classical pieces but I always felt I was better at the hymns. She was very good at fancy work which we all did: cutwork, embroidery, tatting, knitting and crochet. During the war we knit socks to send overseas along with fruit cakes. She was also a good painter. I remember particularly her painting violets on some cream material. Lucy liked to have fun and to go to the dances.

When mother became ill Lucy had to leave school to help care for her. She lived at home until 1919 when she married Herb Howse . Their family are Joyce, Fran, Joan, Reg and Herb.

MAY

I was the middle girl. We girls had the two bedrooms on the west side of the house upstairs. Lucy had the front one and Florrie and I slept in the back but if we had had a tiff I would sleep with Lucy. But for the most part we got along pretty well. Farms were quite far apart so the family made its own fun and we had a lot of good times.

I was very shy as a child and if strangers came to the house I would hide in the space behind the big kitchen stove.

Years later after leaving the farm and working for several years I married Roy Mack of a pioneer New Westminster family and we had two daughters, Florence (Corky) and Mary.

FLORRIE

I don't remember Florrie too clearly. She was always rather frail. When she was about ten she got polio and couldn't move for a long time. She had a very long and painful recovery and had missed a lot of school. She didn't want to go back to the school in Steveston so when she was about 14 Pa let her go to Columbia

College in New Westminster for one term because a number of other local girls were going. Florrie was the most attractive of the three of us and had a lot of fellows sweet on her. She had a very pretty singing voice and sang at concerts in the Orange Hall. She later developed TB and died in 1929 at the age of 25 in the sanatorium at Tranquille.

CHARLES ERNEST

I can picture the baby standing at my mother's knee. I remember he had boils and my mother took him into Vancouver to Aunt Maggie's place to see the doctor there. He died at six months and I just vaguely remember the service in the parlour and a lot of people. I was only eight at the time. The family burial plot is in the cemetery in New Westminster.

LIFE ON THE FARM

CHORES

Chores never ended on the farm. It took all my mother's time and energy to take care of us all, even with help. My mother always had a hired girl to help her and, while we were little, a Chinese man did the cooking. There was always a Chinese hand living in the little shack at the edge of the garden who grew all the vegetables for the house and did other little jobs. I remember two, Sing and Chung. The boys helped with the farmwork and we girls had our chores to do.

We took turns cleaning the coal oil lamps and there were a lot of them. We brought in wood for the three stoves, washed dishes, gathered eggs which I hated - particularly if the hen was on the nest - I would poke her with a stick to get her off. We helped in the flower garden a bit.

We had to do our homework and Lucy and I had to practise the piano. We had to help tidy and dust. I loved to read and I remember being up in the back bedrooms making the beds and then running the carpet sweeper back and forth so I could read my book. I thought my mother wasn't on to me but I suspect she was. I loved Elsie Dinsmore books and shed many a tear over Elsie's troubles. Winnie gave me the Girl's Annual. I don't remember actually being taught to cook but my mother never discouraged us from being in the kitchen.

SCHOOL

I really liked school, especially reading and writing - arithmetic was not my thing. In very bad weather if Pa could get away he drove us to school in the buggy. But most days we walked the two and a half miles along the dyke to Steveston. First the Blairs would come by and we Londons would join them, then Verna and Percy Morris, the London Cannery manager's children (Verna was very pretty and had black eyes, ivory skin and bright red hair - sometimes her mother gave us strawberry sandwiches) and then the Japanese children until we were quite a large group. The perfume of wild roses still reminds me of walking along the dyke. I remember our teachers Miss Peck and Miss Crawford . I can still see Miss Crawford trying to teach us Christmas songs.

We took our lunches to school - sandwiches and cake or cookies. Florrie liked jello sandwiches and I liked radish ones. By the time we got home we were really hungry and there would be something from the noon dinner saved for us in the warming oven.(especially cooked onions for me). Occasionally on the way home we would stop at Hung Wo's store on the dyke for cookies with marshmallow and coconut.

In the evenings we would do our homework and Pa would peel apples for us to eat or sit and listen to us practise the piano. He also made willow whistles for us.

I was the only one who went on to high school. Each morning I would have to walk to the Y on No. 9 where a group of us caught the tram to Bridgeport. It made for a very long day but I enjoyed it and made a lot of friends. May Parker and I became good friends then. However, in my second year and after my mother died I had to leave without finishing high school which I have always regretted.

THE FARM

There were a lot of buildings around the house. There was the storage shed at the back that had three rooms. One was the dairy, one was a general catch-all and one was where my mother stored hundreds of jars of preserves, pickles and relishes and jams. Pa used to make vinegar in a big casket and sauerkraut and salted salmon (he liked coho best) and pork. A lot of food staples were stored there.

There was a walkway between the storage shed and the house and this is where my mother did the wash in the summer. Pa churned the butter, and he was very particular about it, on the side verandah.

We were very fortunate to have a water tower so that we always had a supply of good water piped into the pantry and washroom which had a bathtub and to the stove to heat water. Unfortunately the bats liked it, too, and we were always afraid they would get in our hair when we went out to the outhouse at night. We always avoided going out there alone if we could. When the water supply reached our place the tower was taken down.

As well there was the woodshed, clotheslines and the shack for the Chinese handyman. A fence surrounded the house on two sides with maple trees all around.

Behind the fence, in the farm area, there were the barn for the cows (holsteins), the hay barn, the barn for the horses, the wagons, the democrat and the buggies, the chicken coop, the pig shed and the slaughter shed. The geese just roamed free.

We had three work horses that I remember - Maude, Kate and Jenny. The other horse was Susie. Louie would use Susie but Ed had his own horse and buggy and a beautiful black horse called Bessie.

There were, of course, lots of barn cats but one cat was always allowed in the house. The dogs were never allowed in. There was a setter named Nellie and Louie had a pointer named Jack - both hunting dogs (ducks and pheasants). Then there was a St. Bernard named Duke whose job it was to look after us young ones. In fact I remember once when I fell down Duke grabbed my sleeve and tried to pull me up. But Duke developed a fondness for going over to the cannery and getting into the fish scraps and that was his undoing.

FOOD

We always had lots of good food on the farm. We had potatoes from the fields, of course. In the vegetable garden we grew corn, peas, carrots, turnips, cabbage, beets, onions, cucumbers, green onions, radishes, pumpkin, rhubarb and lettuce. Pa was very fond of lettuce which we ate as salad with a boiled dressing. And his coleslaw was excellent. We grew no tomatoes, broccoli, herbs or cauliflower.

In the orchard we had about 25 trees: yellow plums, prunes, Clapp's Favourite, Flemish Beauty and Bartlett pears, A Queen Anne, Bing and Sour Cherry and many apple trees - Transparent, Harvest, Kings, Gravenstein, Snow, Banana, and Russets. We also had red and black currants and lots of raspberries. I don't know why but we never grew any strawberries.

I remember one summer the minister's nephew, Johnny, whose father was a missionary in China, tried to get a job at the other farms with no luck so Pa hired him to do odd jobs around. One of his jobs was to pick the raspberries and he counted every berry he picked.

There was also a patch of wild blackberries around the pond. But the best blackberries were the sweet little ones we would get by the pail from Aunt Jean who would buy them from the Indians at Tsawassen.

Mama and the hired girl worked hard at preserving fruit and pickling for the winter. Pa helped with pickling as well.

For all the other groceries there would be one trip a week to Walker's in Steveston for staples and perhaps others for perishable things like meat for we went through a lot of food feeding so many people - all the family, a hired man and a hired girl and quite often guests.

The main meal of the day was at noon and we always ate in the kitchen, even if guests were there. We only used the dining room for the threshers.

For dinner we would have roasts, chops, stews, fish, chicken, duck and pheasant in season with lots of vegetables and good bread. When the oolichans were running we would have lots of them - we just picked them up in the tidepools still flopping around, there were so many.

Supper would be things like poached eggs, buckwheat pancakes with maple syrup from Pa's family in the East, salads, soups.

Mama did lots of baking, of course. Bread would be baked ten to eleven loaves at a time - always white - every other day. We had lots of eggs, butter and cream and fruits to use. Some of the things she made were pies, sweet buns, scones, rice pudding, custards, cottage puddings (cake with a sauce), fruit cobblers, johnnycake with syrup, crumb cake, fruit cakes, jelly rolls, cake donuts, gingersnaps, shortbread, raisin cookies and sugar cookies. One cake I remember was a ribbon cake with three layers - two white layers with a spice and raisin layer in the middle iced with boiled icing.

For a treat we made cocoa with Fry's cocoa and we made lots of fudge and pulled toffee. In the summer on a Sunday we sometimes made ice cream.

My very favorite dinner was roast goose with potatoes and turnips and gingerbread with whipped cream for desert.

Pa had left home in Stoney Creek, Ontario when he was only 14 and had batched for many years before getting married so he was very good at lending a hand in the kitchen.

Sundays were always the same in our home. Pa would get up early and make the breakfast - porridge, bacon and eggs, toast and jam and really good perked coffee to which he added a whole egg. When it was ready he would come to the bottom of the stairs and call "Oopee, oopee" for us to come and get it.

After breakfast we young ones walked off to Sunday school with the Blair girls and later Pa would drive Mama to church. Although he was not much on religion it was very important to Mama and he supported her in that. However, he tended to nod off in the service and had to have the sharp elbow treatment.

On Sundays we had to play hymns and Pa loved to sit and listen to us play and Florrie sing. On Sunday nights the fishing fleet would go out and we loved to sit at Lucy's window and watch the lights on the water.

THE FLOWER GARDEN

My mother enjoyed her flower garden which was on the east side of the house and although we never had plants in the house we had lots of bouquets of flowers. I remember the sweet peas that grew along the fence particularly because one time Lucy cut the tip off my finger with the scissors while I held a stem for her to cut. We had lots of flowers. In Spring there were daffodils and lily of the valley. And we would pick the small mauvy-pink violets from the ditch which was hard work as you had to hang over the edge and they were very small. Then there were Shasta daisies, Sweet William, nasturtiums, asters, English daisies, pansies and, at the end of the kitchen porch, a honeysuckle. There were also roses - a red, a white and one beautiful yellow climber called Gloire de Dijon that was by the bay window. And there were all the wild roses along the fence and the dyke.

KEEPING HEALTHY

Illness and death hit every household in those days. Pa always insisted we have rhubarb for a spring tonic and his solution for most ailments was a dose of salts. I tended to get really bad coughs when I was small and he would bring me in the night either brown sugar and butter or, if I was really bad, a dose of eclectic oil on sugar (a treatment I later found out was meant for horses).

Pa didn't have a lot of faith in the local doctor in Steveston. When he quarantined us all for scarlet fever, which we didn't have, Pa got Grandma Mary's doctor from Vancouver to come out and he lifted the quarantine. After that he always paid the doctor to come out if needed. We had the usual childhood diseases, mumps, chickenpox, measles and whooping cough although we didn't all get every disease strangely enough. Louie was the only one to get diptheria.

Much later when my mother became ill with breast cancer, Pa took her to the Mayo Clinic in Kansas City where they stayed for a month but it was to no avail. She died not very long after they came home. She had Aunt Maggie's mother-in-law, Granny Lee, as a nurse and Aunt Nellie came to help. I remember my mother having black dresses bought for us all and we wore them for almost a year.

After the service Mr. Morris, who had a new car, drove us up to the cemetery in New Westminster at 20 miles an hour -there and back. It was a difficult time for everyone.

ENTERTAINMENT AND SOCIAL LIFE

We had lots of people coming and going around the house. The front east bedroom with the best furniture and bedlinens was a guest room and people would come to stay for various reasons. For example, in the Spring, Miss Neilson (Neilly) would come to help with spring cleaning and to wash all the lace curtains and stretch them to dry. She and my mother would hook rugs together. She lived in New Westminster with the people who ran the funeral parlour and sewed the linings for coffins. She sewed some clothes for us girls but she was not the greatest seamstress. When my cousin Lydia Frazee Daniels came she would also sew clothes for us.

We had lots of fun at home. We played games like checkers - but never cards - and celebrated special occasions. On birthdays we had a party with games and a cake with party favours in it - the wedding ring, thimble, button and so on. On Halloween we would have a party and bob for apples. At Christmas our parents would be up very early making the carrot puddings and Pa would stuff the goose. We would all be up bright and early for our stockings full of nuts and oranges and small gifts. One year we each got a lovely doll with a kid body and beautiful auburn hair. My mother had Lulu Frazee Bryson dress them for her and they were beautiful. I only remember having a Christmas tree one year (it had to come all the way from the bog) and it filled the bay window.

We also visited with other family and with neighbours. We went to dances and concerts at the Orange Hall and sometimes to the Opera House. For the dances a four piece orchestra would come out from town and we would dance the lancers, schottische, waltz and country dances,

And there was lots of activity on the river with the Sampson stopping at the London wharf and the King Edward dredge working to clear the channel. The Transfer travelling between Steveston and New Westminster also stopped at the wharf.

Her church meant a great deal to my mother. Before there was a church building in the area services were held in our dining room. She was always very active in South Arm Presbyterian Church in the ladies auxiliary and attended lots of meetings. I recall when Reverend Ross came to call if we saw him coming we girls would skitter up the back stairs because he had a very bushy beard and always insisted on giving us each a kiss.

LEAVING LONDON FARM

After my mother died in 1916 it was not the same for Pa. We stayed on the farm for five years and I vividly remember at 15 cooking for a threshing crew. Thankfully, before the crew came in for dinner Pa would come in and help me.

I remember that we girls hated to go off to a dance and leave him alone so we would get him to come along and later we'd come back with friends and play the piano till all hours and he would take it all with good nature.

I remember Pa bought a very dashing Mclaughlin car that would slip and slide all over the muddy track in from Gilbert Road.

In 1921 he sold the farm and he, Florrie and I moved to Marpole. Aunt Mary and Uncle Ken lived in Marpole and were very good to us.

Many of our keepsakes - our dolls, photos, china, etc. - were put into storage at Mr. Bowditch's and and not long after were lost in a fire.

Later Lucy and Herb bought the farm back through the VLA and Pa helped them get established with stock and helped them get things going. They raised their family and farmed there till 1948.

After living in Marpole for a time, Florrie and I moved into Vancouver where we boarded and then rented. I worked as a telephone operator and Florrie became a desk clerk at the Angeles Hotel on Dunsmuir Street. When her health got worse we moved to Dundarave. She spent a lot of time in hospital. She was only at Tranquille about six months when she died.

Pa went to live with Ed and Winnie and in later years lived in Vancouver where he died in 1941.

Reference Files

Reference Files consist of a wide variety of material which provide information relating to Richmond. A researcher may find pamphlets, articles, clippings, brochures, reports, publications, notes and histories under many name and subject headings.

"Heritage Buildings - London Farm House" Reference File

The London Farm Reference File can be broken down into the following five items:

- I. The London Farm: A Richmond Centennial Project, proposed by the Richmond Historical and Museum Advisory Committee. [1976].

The five page proposal to the Richmond Centennial Project Advisory Committee recommends the development of a heritage village centred around London Farm. The recreational and tourist centre envisioned for the site includes a restored London farmhouse, a small animal farm, a saloon/restaurant, a general store, a blacksmith shop, farm buildings, and other historic commercial buildings. The proposal also identifies possible funding sources for the project, recommends that the Richmond Historical Society operate the facility, and anticipates that the broadest possible scope of Richmond residents and visitors will be consulted and involved.

- II. London Farm Site Development Plan, Advance Planning and Research for Architecture, prepared for the Richmond Historical and Museum Society and Department of Leisure Services, Township of Richmond, April 5, 1982.

The plan provides a general physical description of the farm site and the planners' vision for the development which includes the addition of a restaurant/lounge and possibly an RV park and a heritage village. The potential benefits that might be derived from such an establishment are also illustrated. Included with the plan are maps, diagrams, a timetable and a financial outline.

- III. Report on Interview with May Mack, July 27, 1987. Prepared by Valerie Billesberger.

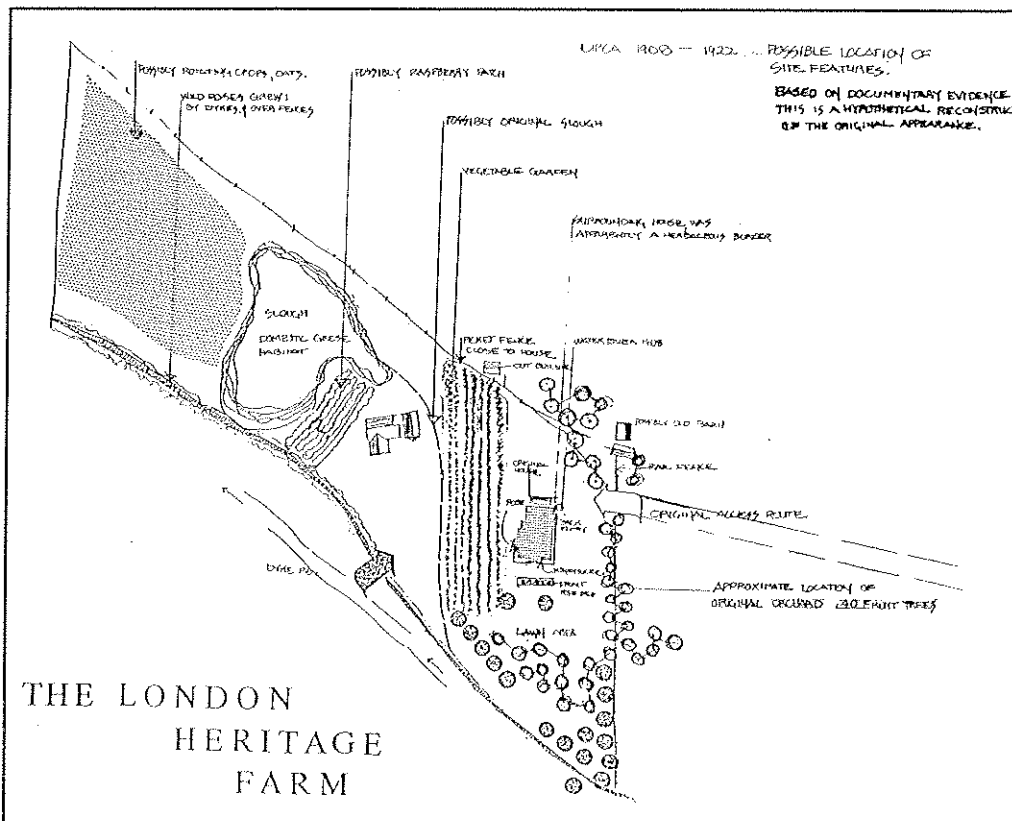
The 62-page report provides general biographical and genealogical information on the London family as well as details about the London farmhouse and property. Diagrams illustrate the layout of the rooms in the house and the location of trees and gardens in the farm yard. The report includes a bibliography and photographs of the house interior and exterior. (See also "Undescribed Accessions" for other material relating to this interview, specifically, Accession 1987 84 for the interview cassette and Accession 1988 58 for the colour negatives of the photographs that accompany the report).

"Heritage Buildings - London Farm House" Reference File ... (continued)

- IV. London Farm, Richmond: Historic Site Analysis and Investigation, prepared for the Richmond Historical and Museum Society, prepared by Shan Ripon, 1987. (Report and appendices bound separately).

The report provides basic information on the London family, the history and physical layout of London Farm, and the general history of the south arm London area. The report also summarizes the recent efforts to establish the farm as a heritage site. Although a detailed description of various farming techniques and agricultural products is given, they are not specific to London farm. The appendices include oral history summaries, and copies of seed catalogues, pamphlets, and horticultural reports relating to agriculture generally.

- V. Miscellaneous documents, images, pamphlets, maps. Most of these miscellaneous items are copies collected from municipal records or Richmond Historical and Museum Society records which provide information on London farm. A few copy photographs are also included.



Historic site features of London farm, from 1987 report by Shan Ripon (listed above)

Richmond Reflections

*Richmond Reflections is a short feature article written by Archives staff and volunteers and has appeared in the **Richmond Review** since 1983. Copies of all the articles are available at the Archives.*

Richmond Reflections Relating to London Farm

Richmond Reflections

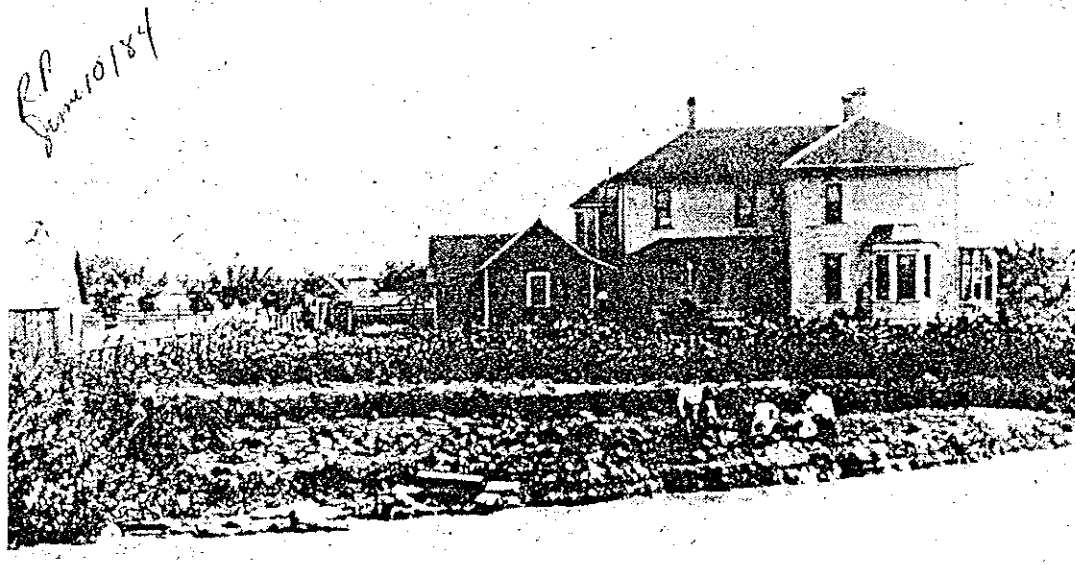
The London Farm was purchased in 1881 by Charles E. London, Steveston's original town planner, and his wife Henrietta. They paid \$10 per acre for 200 acres located along Dyke Road between Gilbert and No. 2 Road.

The picture shows the farmhouse seen from the dike. Note the smaller building to the left, the first London farmhouse.

In the 1890s London Farm was the centre of much community activity including living room church services. A post office and general store were

located on the property as was a wharf called London's Landing, from which local produce was shipped and to which passengers were brought by steamers enroute from New Westminster to Victoria.

Richmond declared London Farm a historical site in 1978. The farmhouse has been restored and fitted with period furnishings. The Richmond Historical Society maintains the site and offers tours for the public. The farm is seeking more volunteers to permit extended opening hours.



"Richmond Reflections," Richmond Review, June 10, 1984.

Richmond Reflections ... (Continued)

Richmond Reflections is a short feature article written by Archives staff and volunteers and has appeared in the Richmond Review since 1983. Copies of all the articles are available at the Archives.

Richmond Reflections Relating to London Farm

Richmond Reflections

Last week we showed you an archival photograph of historic London Farm. Today, an historic link with Richmond's pioneer past — five generations of Charles E. London descendants, together on the porch of the farm homestead.

On right is one of those five children, Joyce Gilmore, whose son Richard is posed on left, with his daughter Susan Cody (middle) with her new-born son Ryan.

Second from left is Lucy Howse, a London daughter born in the house, who with Herb Hawse (second from right) raised five children and farmed the land from 1919 to 1948. (The farm is now operated by the Richmond Historical Society.)

Add it all up, and five generations are represented, little Ryan being the great great grandchild of the Howse's. In all, they have 13 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild (so far). And on April 30 the Howses' celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

"Richmond Reflections," *Richmond Review*, June 17, 1984.

Richmond Reflections ... (Continued)

Richmond Reflections is a short feature article written by Archives staff and volunteers and has appeared in the Richmond Review since 1983. Copies of all the articles are available at the Archives.

Richmond Reflections Relating to London Farm



Lucy and May London c. 1900

LUCY MAY, born in 1898 and her sister, May Margaret, were two of five children born to South Arm pioneer, Charles London and his wife, Henrietta. Brothers Charles and William London arrived here from Ontario in 1880 and bought 200 acres at \$10 an acre from Thomas McNeely for their London Farm at the south end of Gilbert Road. They built a dyke, a 12 room farmhouse and a wharf, enabling them to ship their produce to New Westminster. In 1885, they added a post office and general store. A larger public wharf called London's Landing was later built, becoming the major landmark on the

South Arm, and the site of a school and church. Charles London was one of Richmond's early councillors, serving from 1883 until 1888. Lucy married Herbert Howse in the parlor of the farmhouse in 1919. After a honeymoon by CPR steamship to San Francisco, they farmed the land until 1948. They lived without electricity until 1936. May became Mrs. Roy Mack. Both daughters are still living today. The London Farmhouse, designated a heritage site in 1977 and fully restored in 1983, is open to the public every Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Photo courtesy Richmond Archives


"Richmond Reflections," Richmond Review, January 23, 1987.

Richmond Reflections ... (Continued)

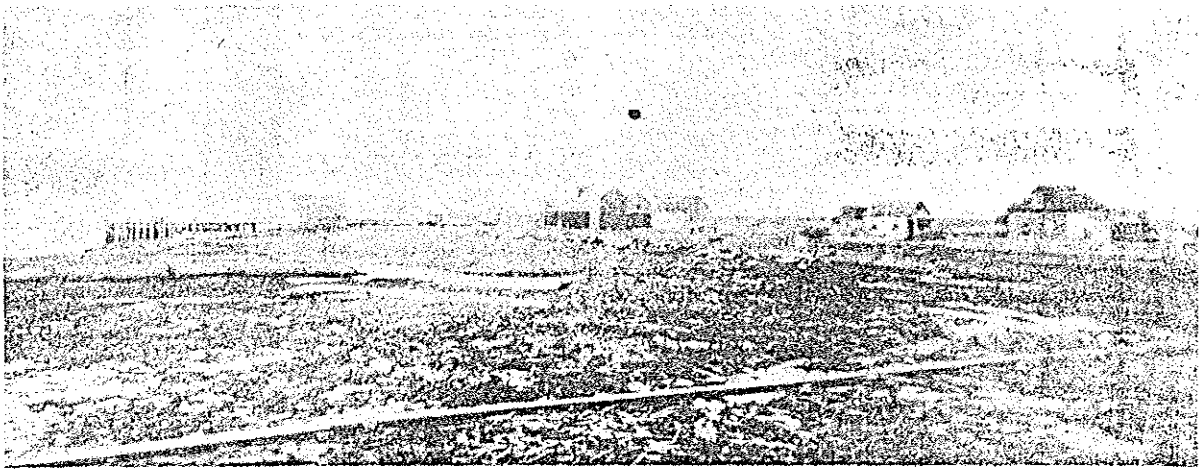
Richmond Reflections is a short feature article written by Archives staff and volunteers and has appeared in the Richmond Review since 1983. Copies of all the articles are available at the Archives.

Richmond Reflections Relating to London Farm

Richmond Review, Friday, March 31, 1989



Richmond Reflections
From The Richmond Archives



London's Landing, circa 1889

A picture is worth a thousand words, but it can also ask a thousand questions. This is especially true of historical photos that arrive at the archives without reliable caption information.

The image shown above is a good example of a rare, early view that tells us a great deal, but begs us to investigate further. Dated at about 1889 this view shows London's Landing, a post office, general store and Union church, located at the foot of No. 2 Road with a Steveston cannery in the distance to the west. The cannery has been tentatively identified as the Phoenix Cannery, built in 1882.

The photo appears to have been taken outside the early dike work as evidenced by the driftwood in the mid-foreground. Many questions remain however. Who was the photographer? Why was the photo taken? Did the same photographer make other images in the area? What has happened to those?

The archives is constantly seeking more images of early Richmond. We will probably never answer all the questions, but with photos like this to inspire us, we will never tire in the task.

Photo courtesy Richmond Archives

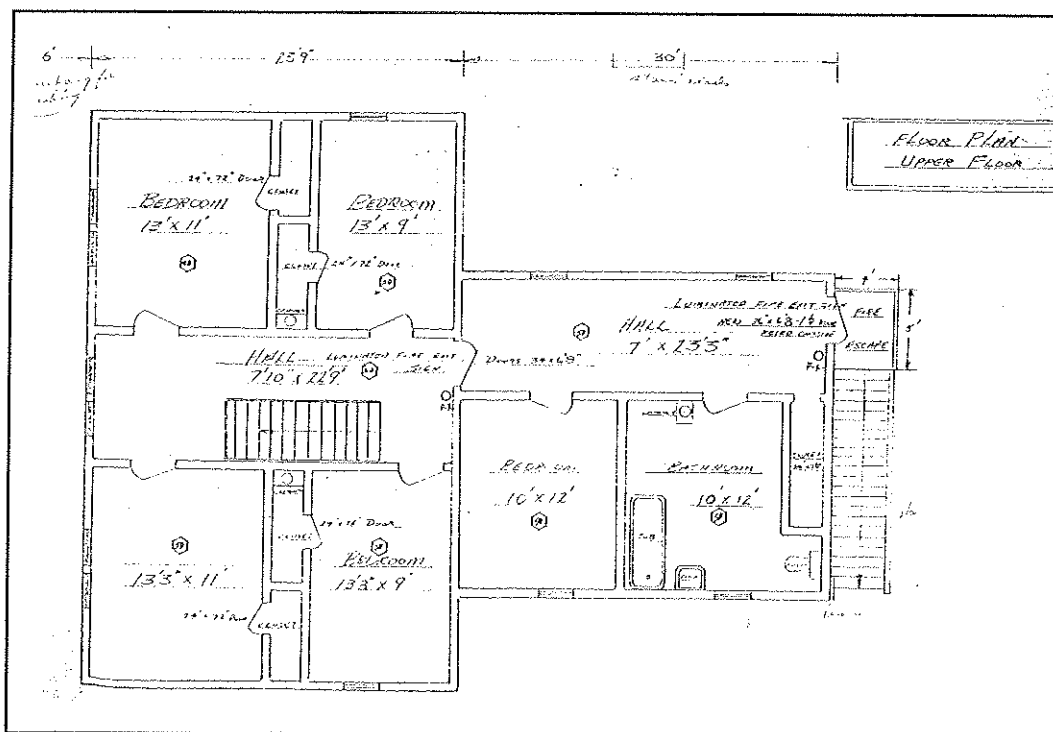
"Richmond Reflections," Richmond Review, March 31, 1989.

Undescribed Material

Most Archives usually have a certain amount of archival material that has been accessioned, that is, accepted into the Archives holdings, but not yet fully processed. We still try to provide access to the material, but without the full descriptions and indexing, it can be complicated. Eventually, all material is processed, but in the meantime, the following list can point you to accessions of undescribed material that relate to London farm.

Undescribed Material Relating to London Farm

- Accession 1987 84 May Mack (nee London) interview on cassette
- Accession 1988 3 Photographs of heritage buildings including London Farm
- Accession 1988 58 Photographs of London Farm from May Mack interview report
- Accession 1994 16 London farm documentation (as-found building plans and photographs)

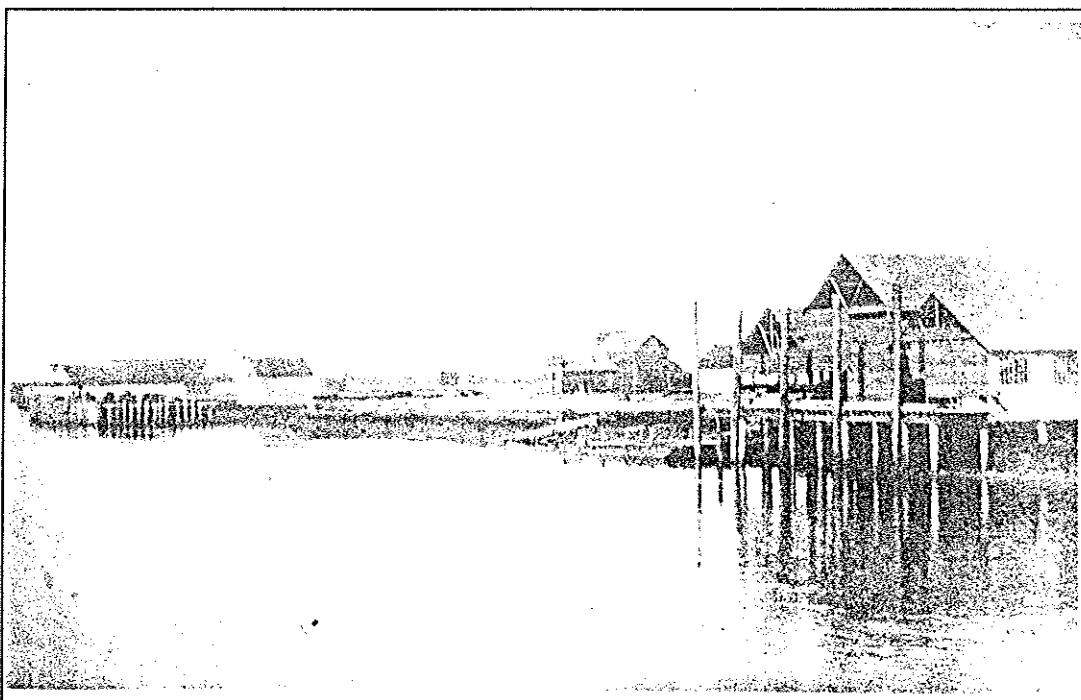


Floor plan for second story of London farmhouse. -- 1980. (From Accession 1994 16)

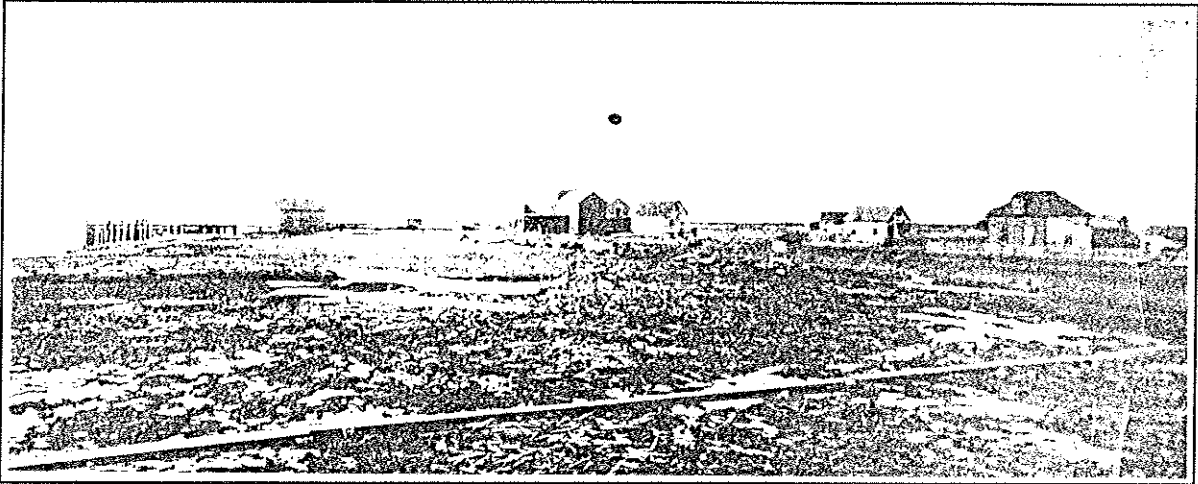
Photographs

The Richmond Archives has large photographic holdings relating to all aspects of Richmond's past. The photographs depict people, places, and events and provide an excellent visual history of the community.

Photographs Relating to the London Farm area and the London Family (Please note that photographs of the London Farm and the London's Landing area are presented first, followed by photographs of the London family). (Also note that the size of some of the following images have been tailored to fit the format of this guide).



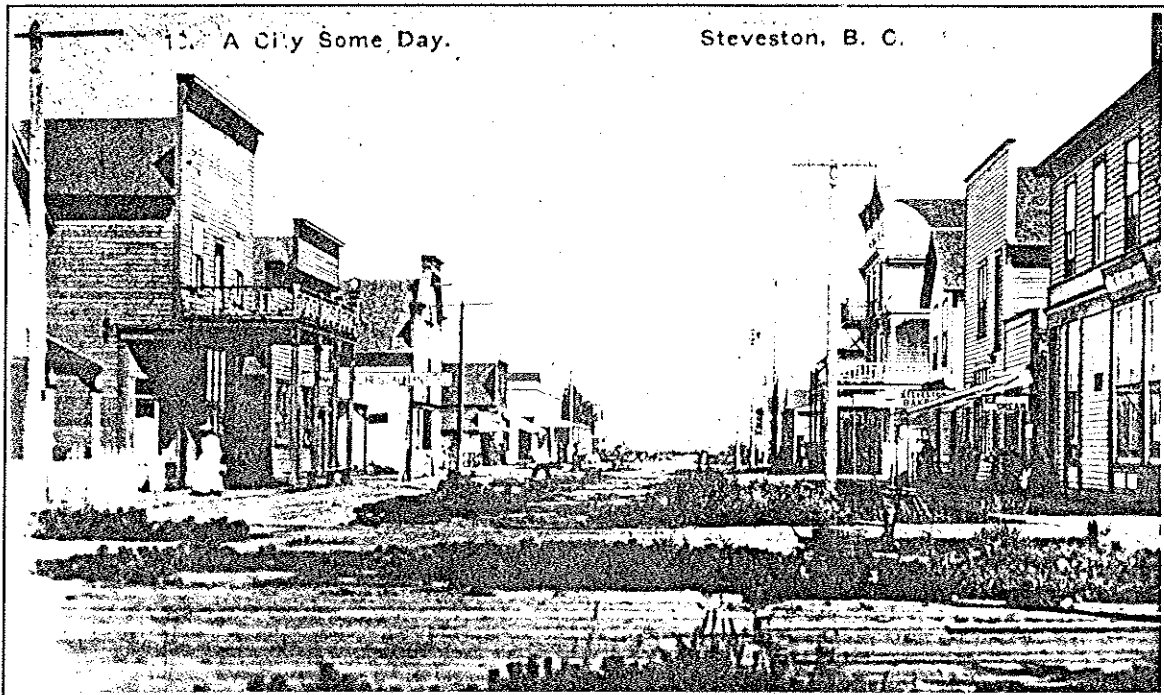
London's Landing showing the post office, general store and Union Church. -- [ca. 1900].
(#1984 17 10)



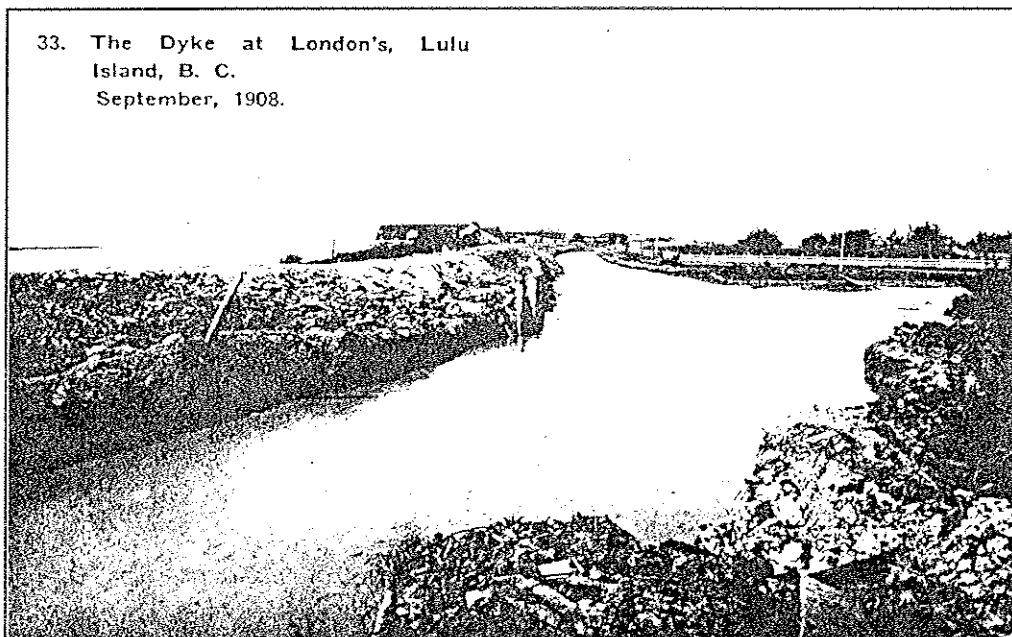
London's Landing at the foot of No.2 Road. -- [ca. 1889] (#1984 17 8)



London farm and the London family. -- 1908. (#1984 17 74)



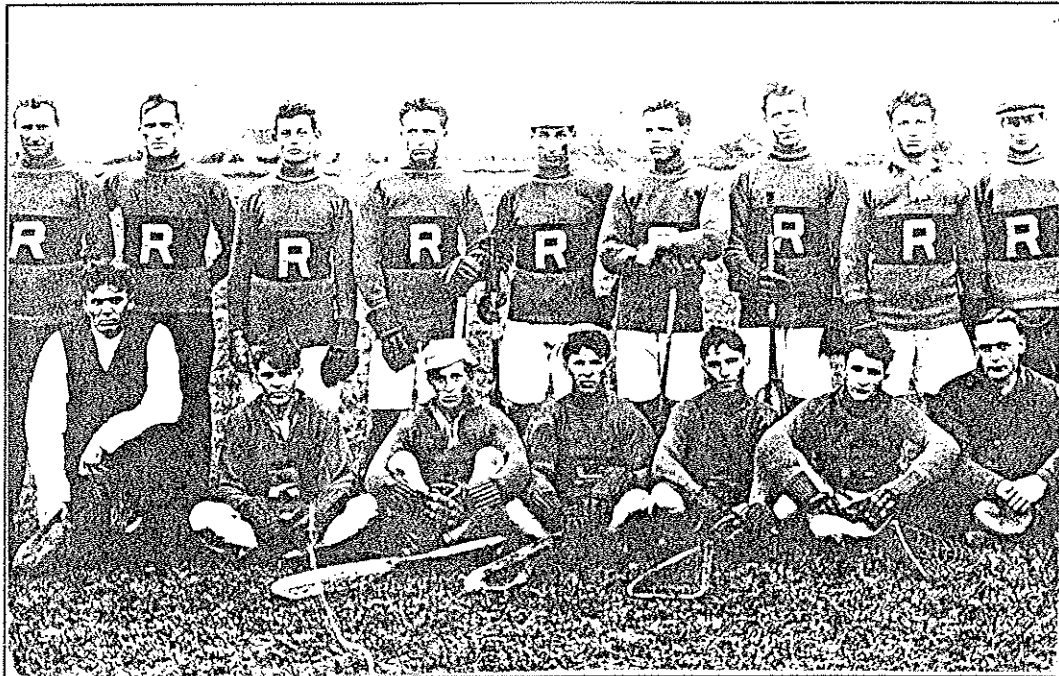
Steveston, B.C. (showing London Hotel). -- 1908. (#1978 5 18)



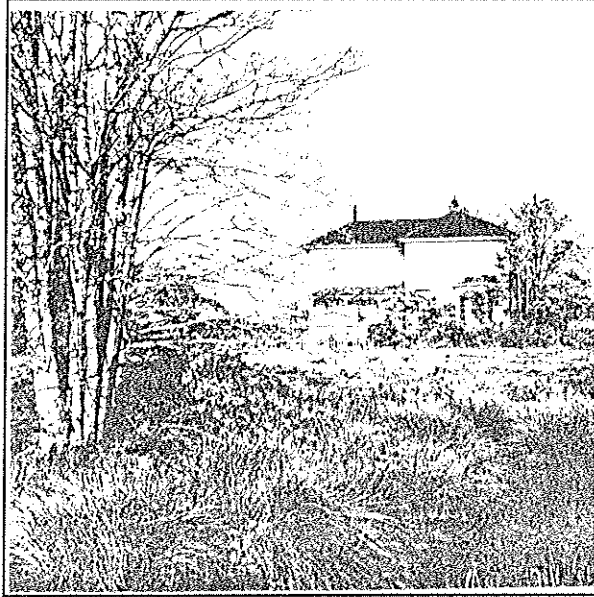
The dyke at London's, Lulu Island, B.C. -- 1908. (#1978 5 6)



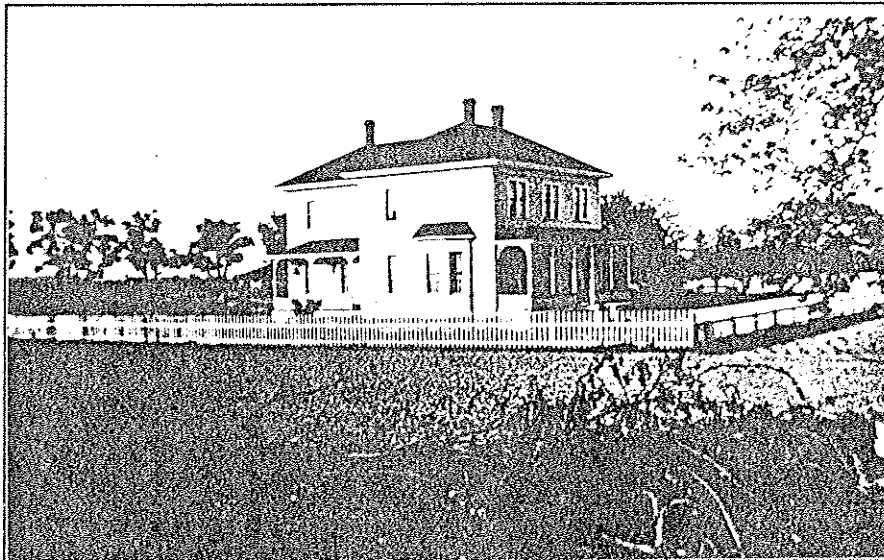
Threshing crew at London farm. -- [ca. 1910] (#1987 79 3)



Farmer's lacrosse team in London fields. -- 1914. (#1986 38 1)



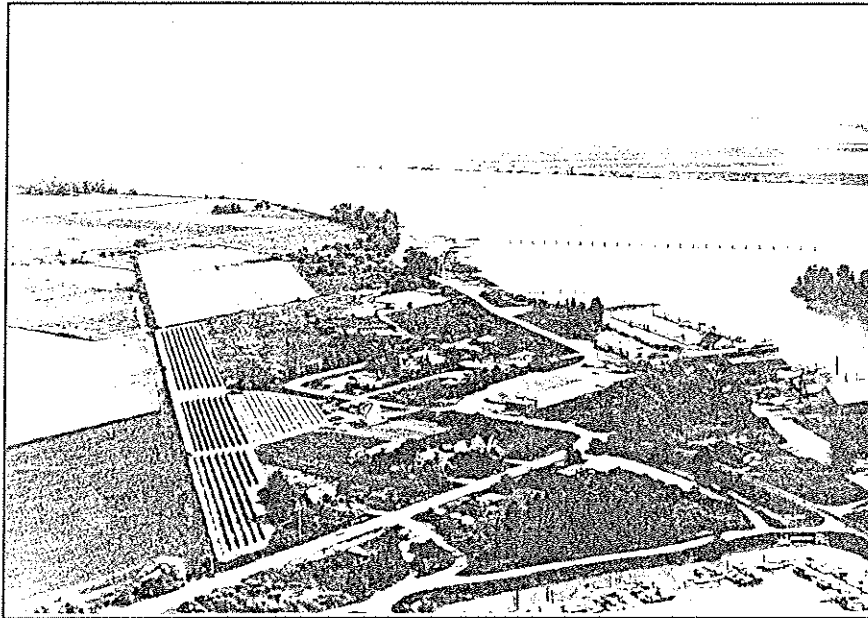
London farm. -- [ca. 1960] (#1985 68 32)



London farmhouse. -- [ca. 1940] (#1978 29 1)



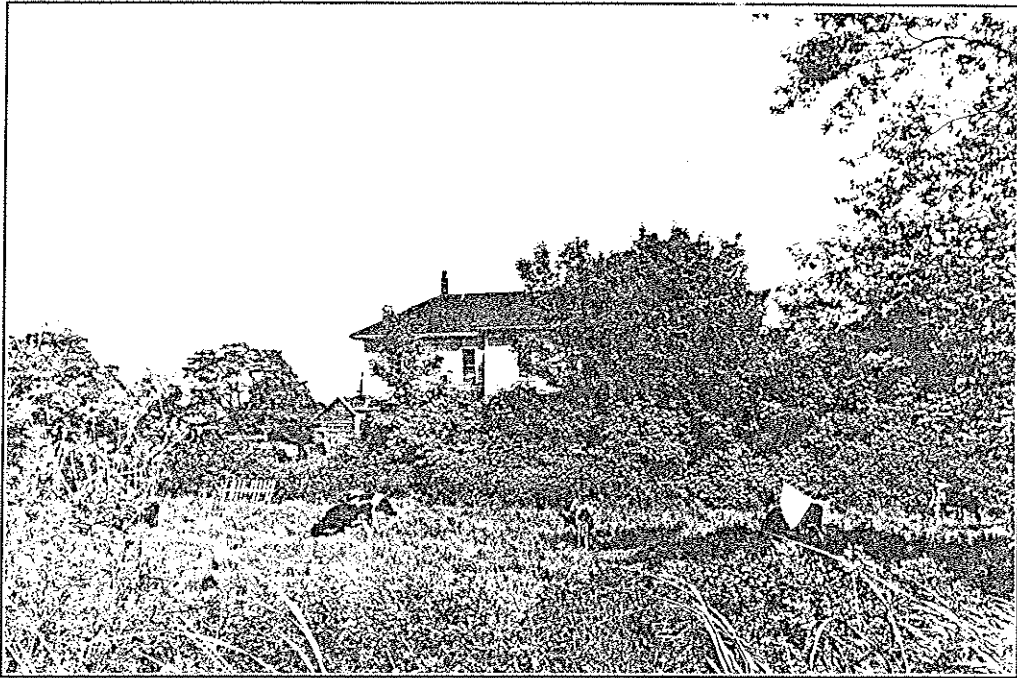
Stormy skies west of London farm. -- 1977. (#1984 4 21)



Aerial photograph of London's Landing area. -- 1977. (#1978 41 30)



London farmhouse prior to restoration. -- 1977. (#1978 29 2)



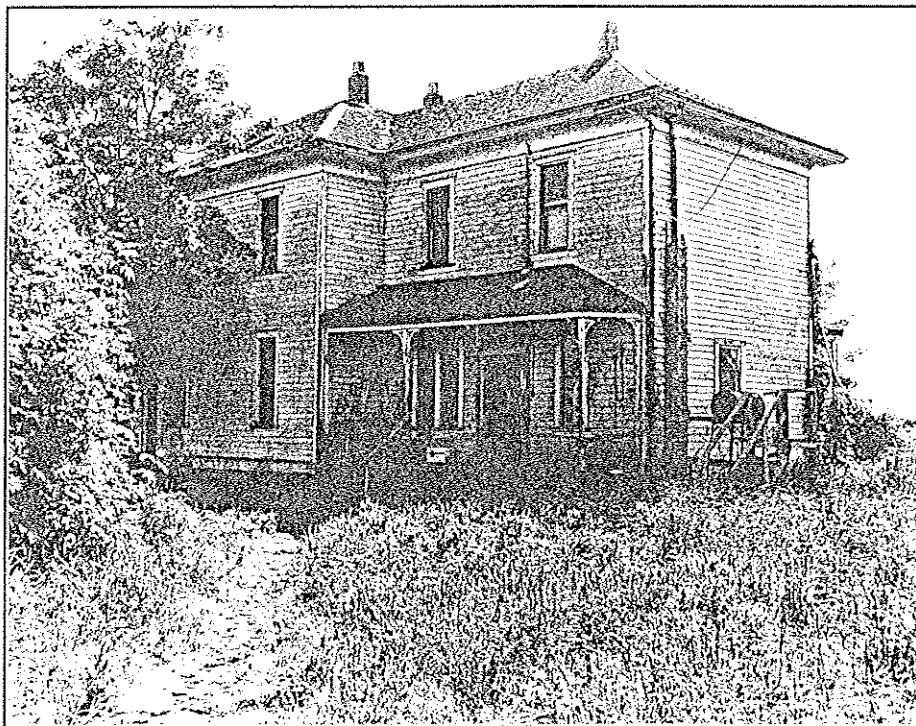
London farm. -- 1977. (#1985 187 5)



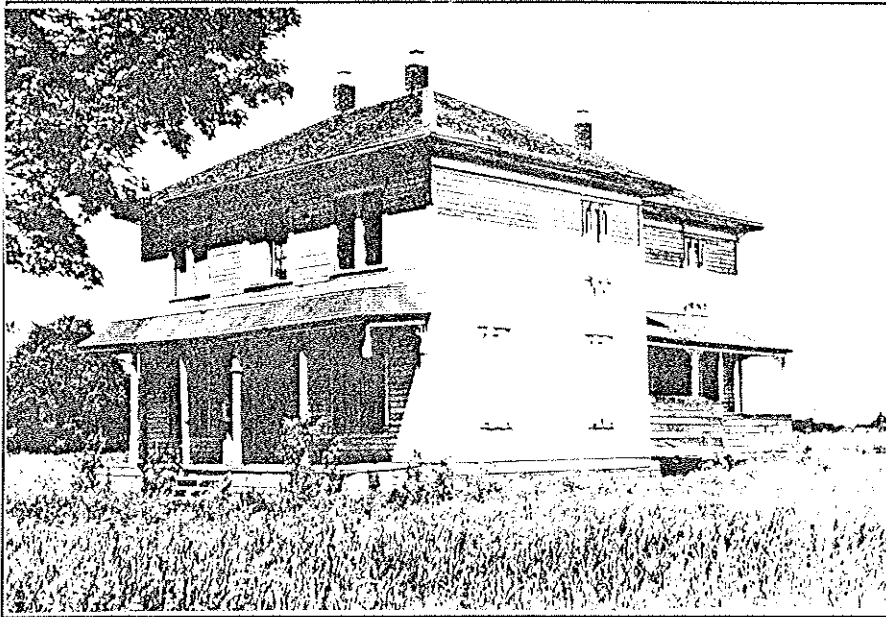
London farm. -- 1977. (#1985 187 6)



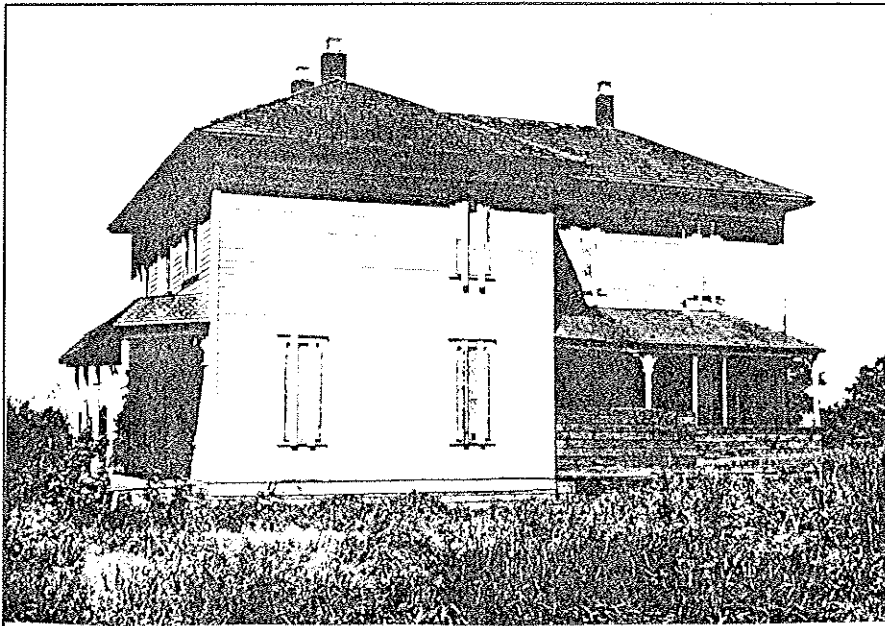
London farm. -- 1977. (#1984 4 3)



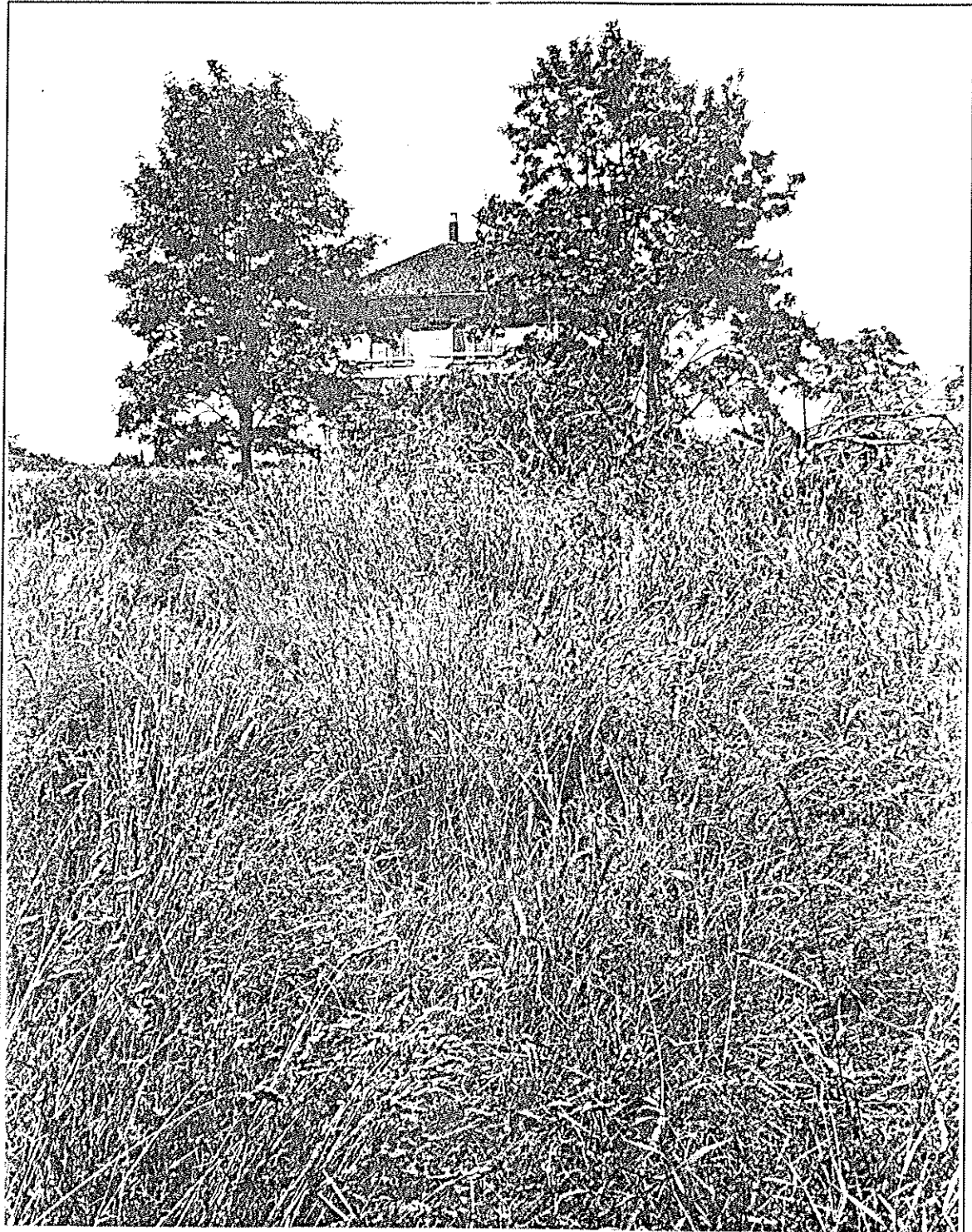
London farm house. -- 1977. (#1985 187 7)



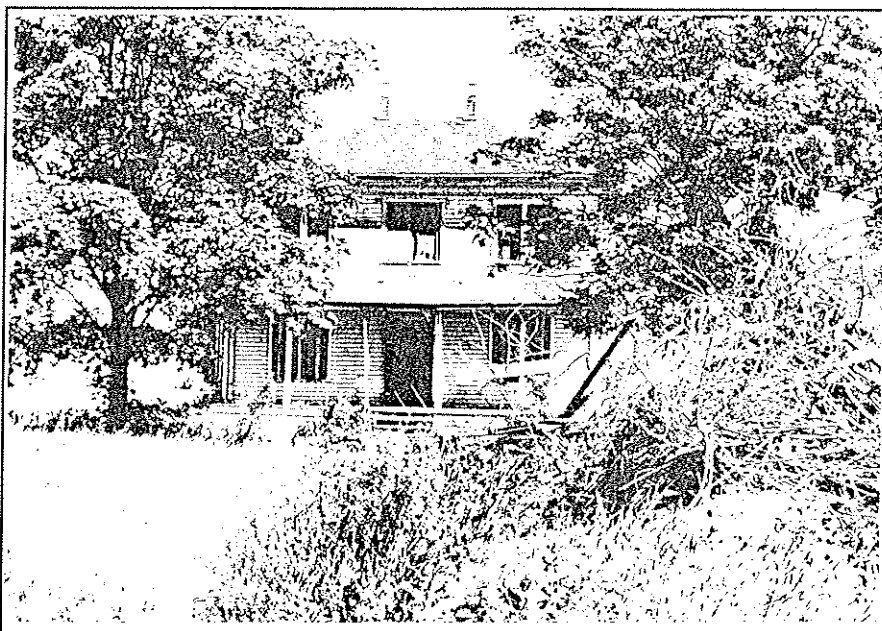
London farm house prior to restoration. -- 1979. (#1978 29 8)



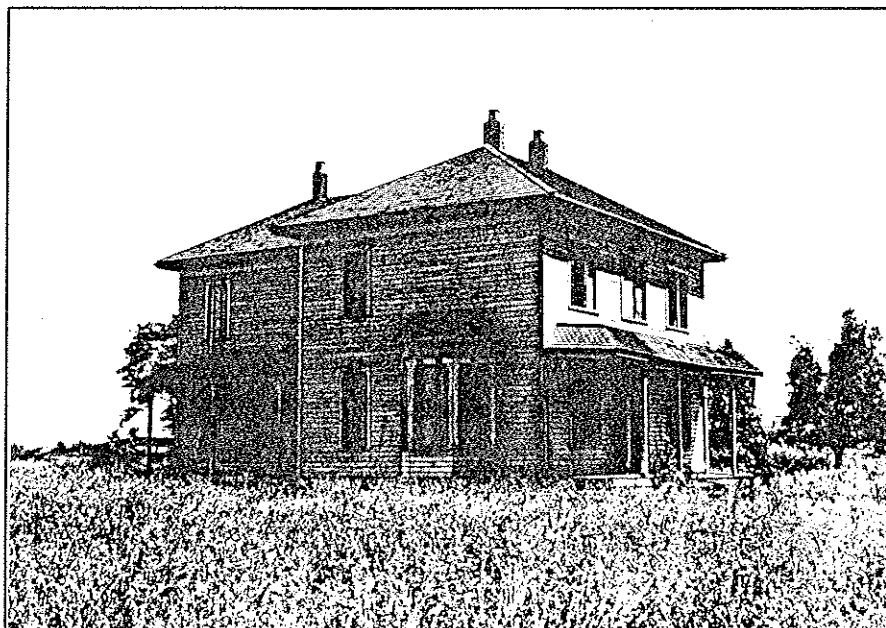
London farm house prior to restoration. -- 1979. (#1978 29 9)



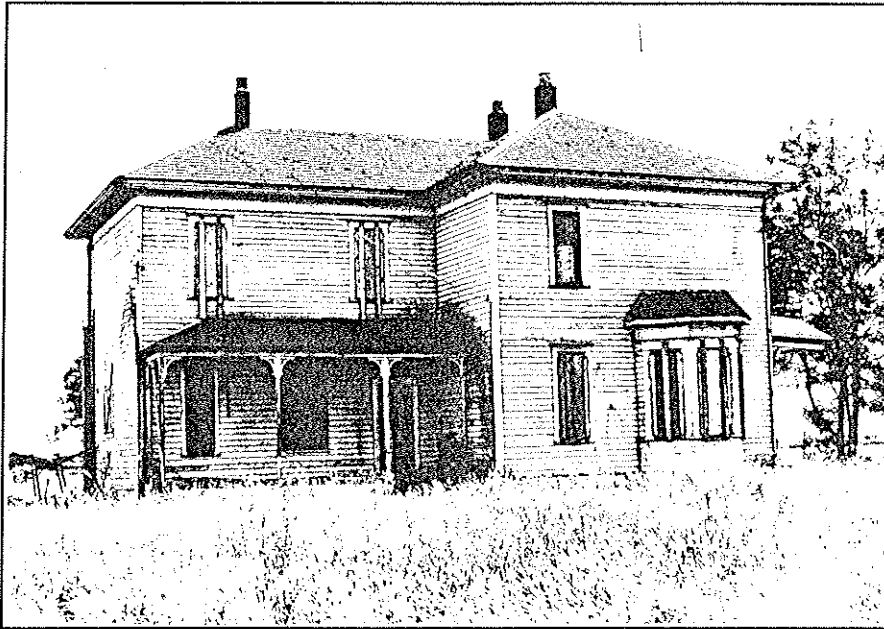
London farm. -- [ca. 1979] (#1984 4 55)



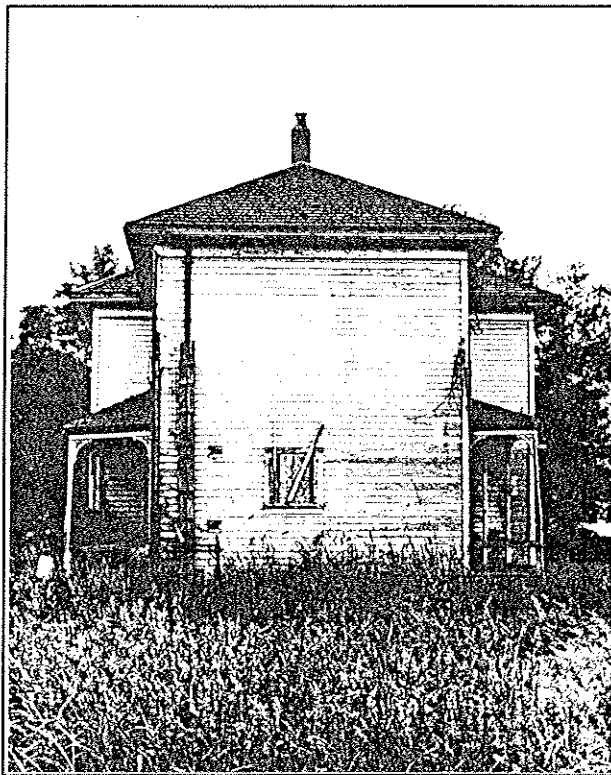
London farm house prior to restoration. -- 1979. (#1978 29 7)



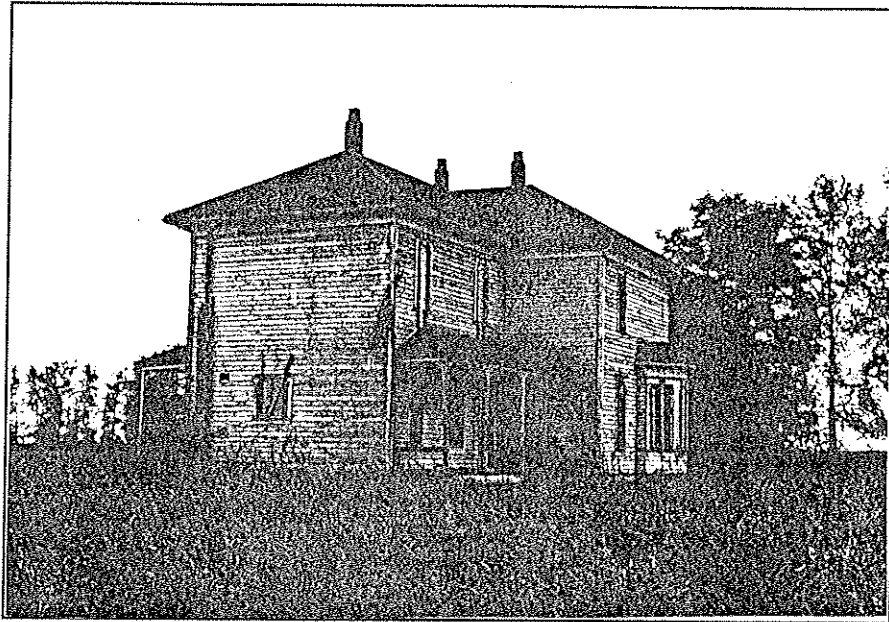
London farm house prior to restoration. -- 1979. (#1978 29 6)



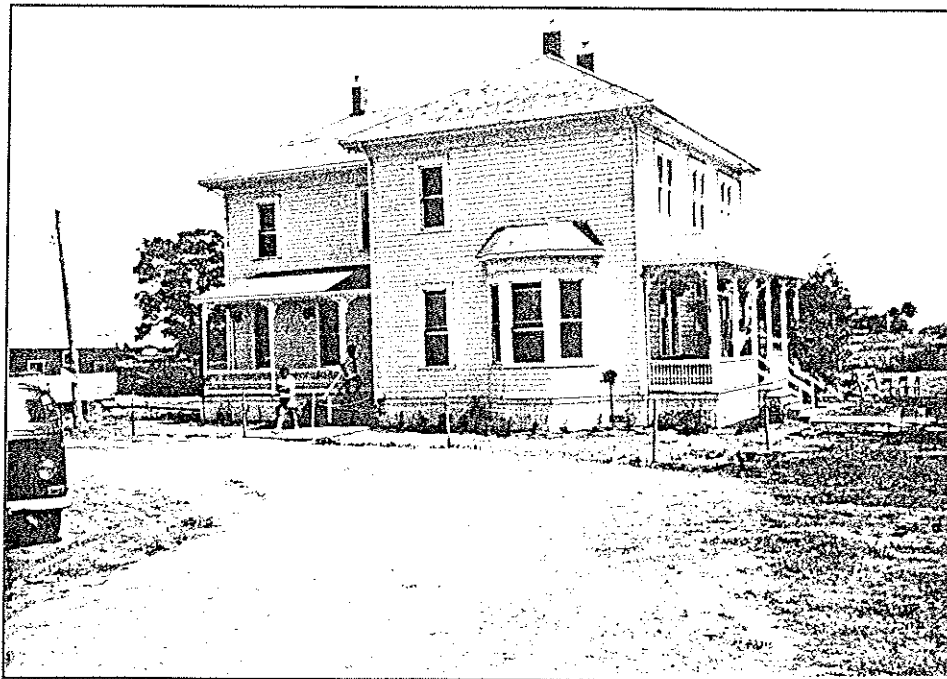
London farm house prior to restoration. -- 1979. (#1978 29 5)



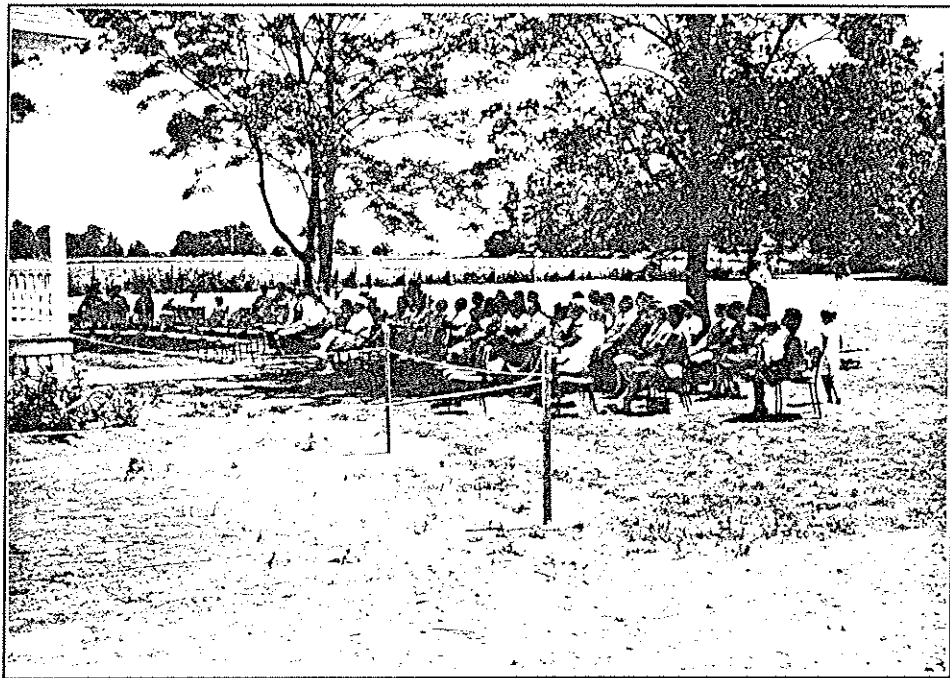
London farm house prior to restoration. -- 1979.
(#1978 29 4)



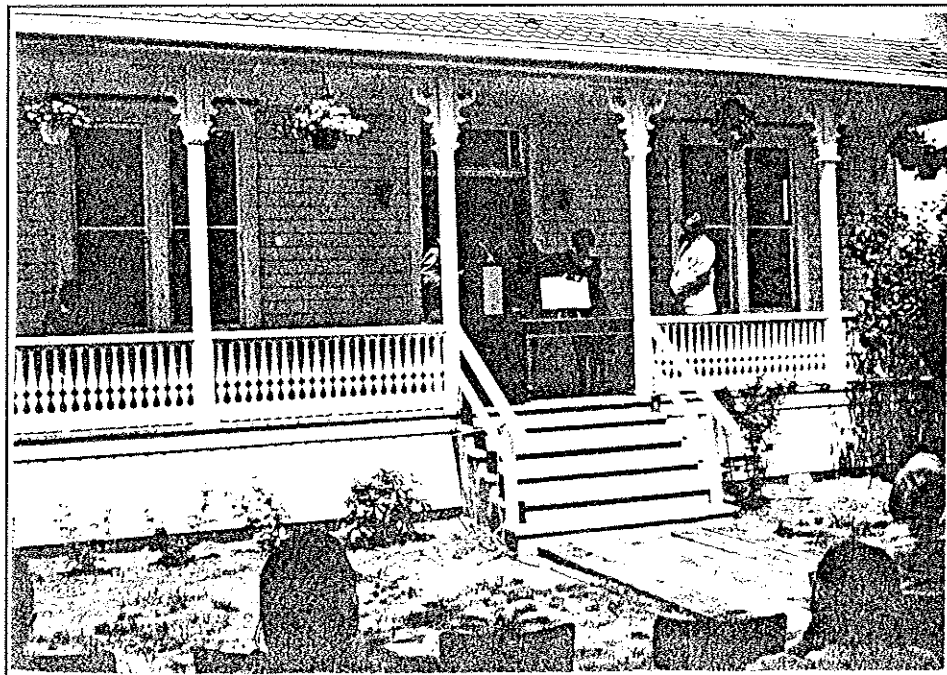
London farm house prior to restoration. -- 1979. (#1978 29 3)



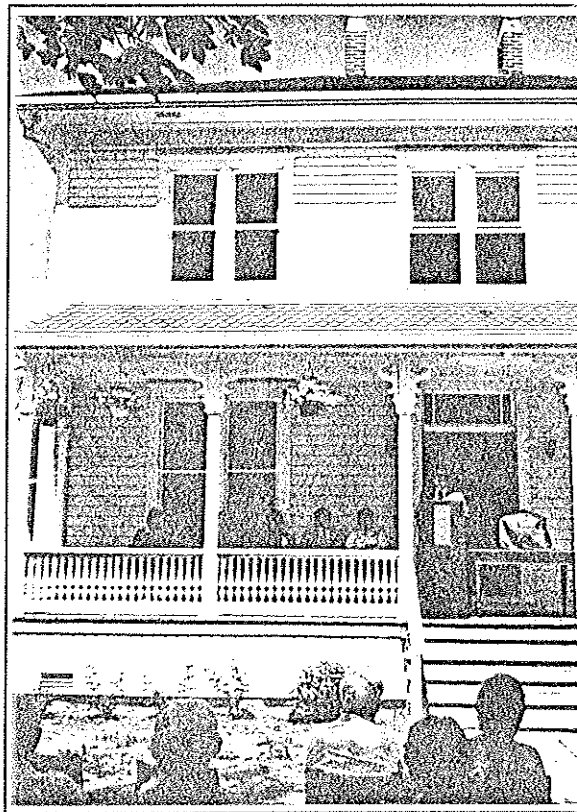
London farm house after restoration. -- 1982. (#1983 8 3)



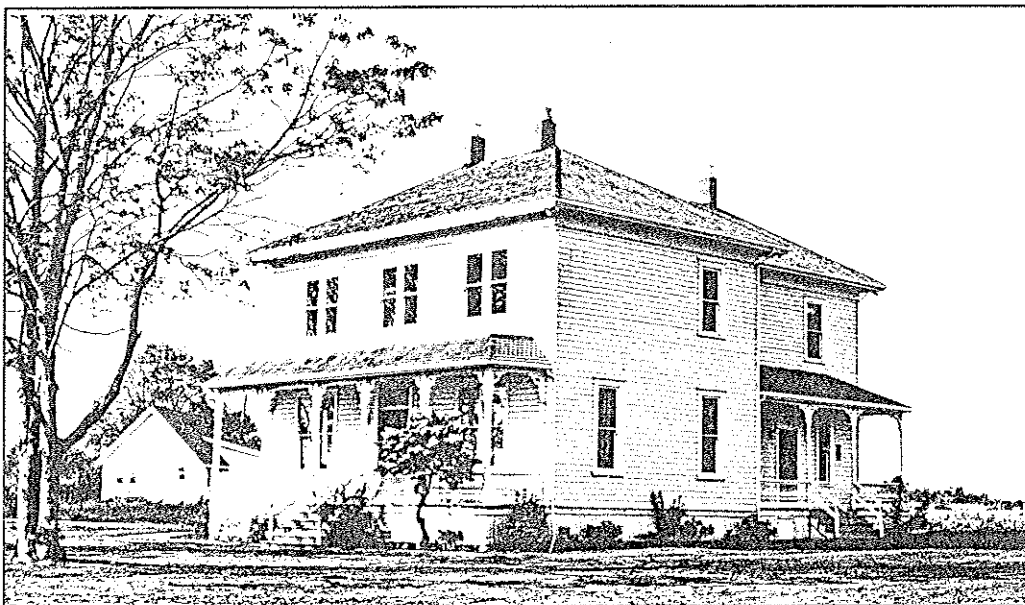
Opening ceremony of London farm. -- 1982. (#1983 8 3)



Opening ceremony of London farm. -- 1982. (#1983 8 4)



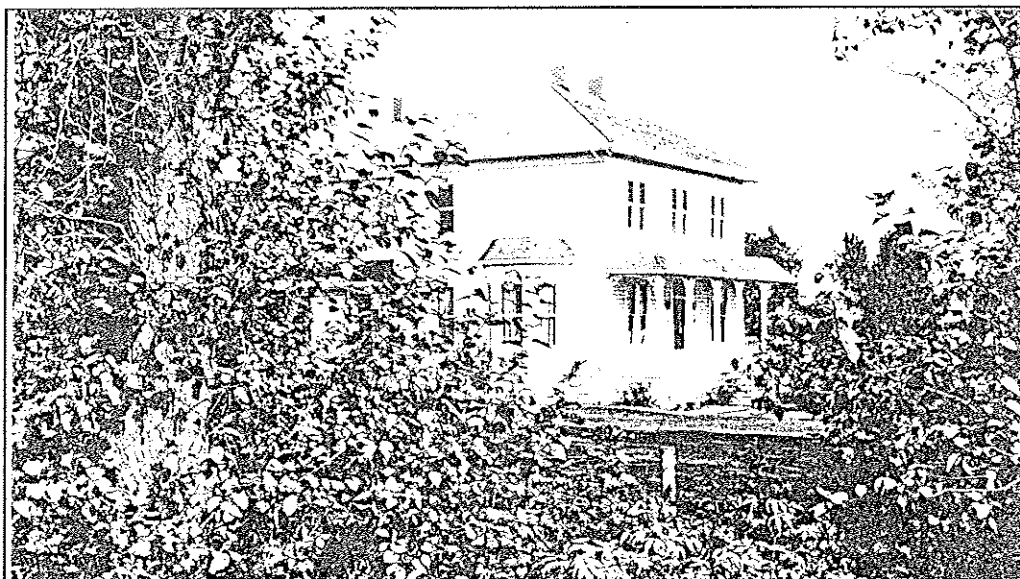
Opening ceremony of London farm. -- 1982.
(#1983 8 2)



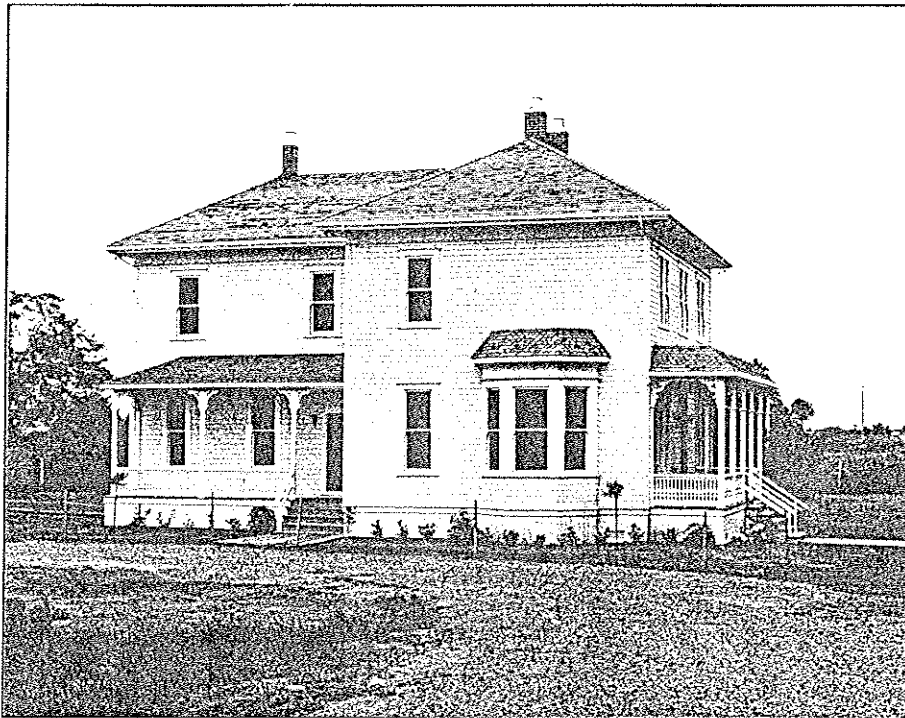
Summer's day at London farm. -- [ca. 1984]. (#1984 4 31)



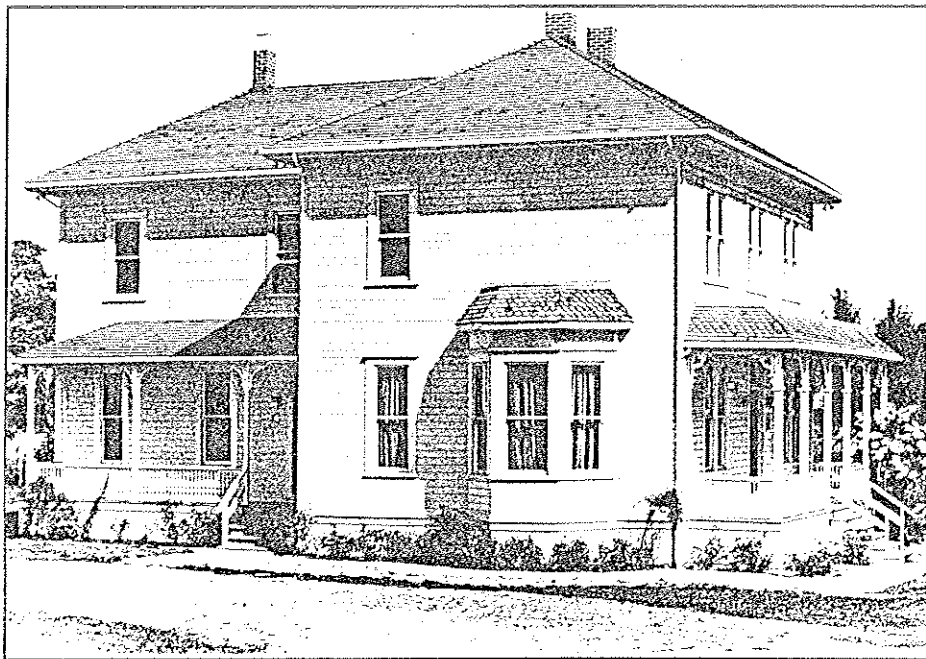
London farmhouse. -- [ca. 1984]. (#1984 4 11)



London farmhouse, looking through trees. -- [ca. 1984]. (#1984 4 32)



London farmhouse. -- [ca. 1984]. (#1984 4 12)



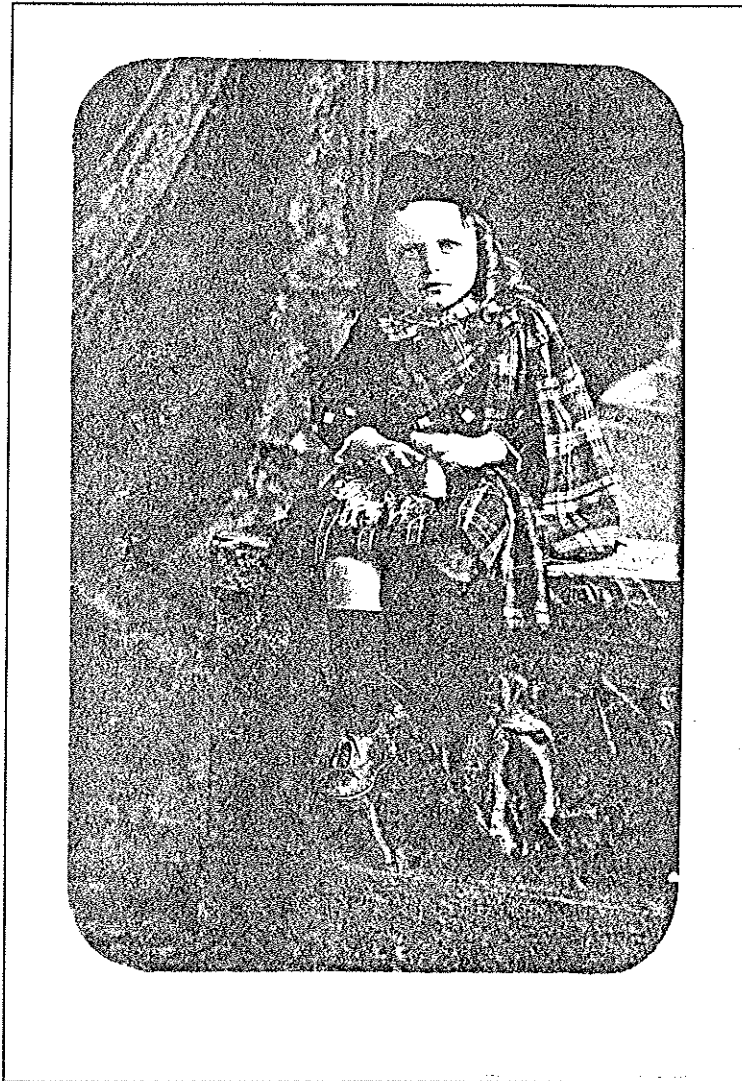
Yesterday-Today. -- [ca. 1984]. (#1984 4 18)



Edwin and Lewis London. -- 1898. (#1987 79 8)



Lucy and May London. -- [ca. 1900]. (#1985 184 28)



Louie London. -- [ca. 1900]. (#1985 184 26)



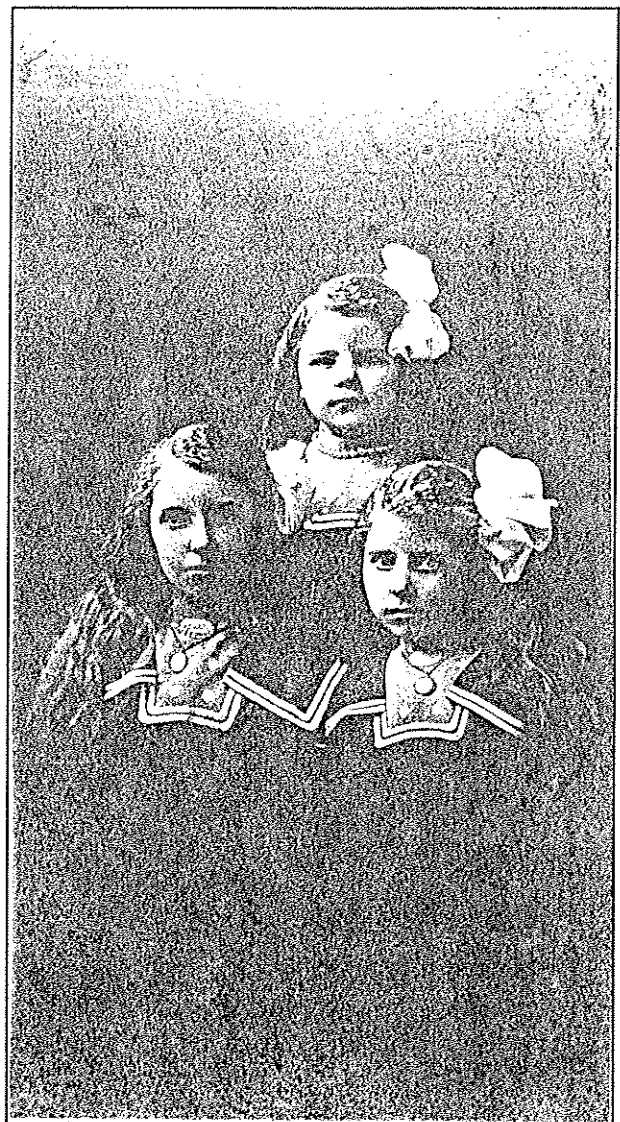
Edwin, Louie and Lucy London. -- [ca. 1905]. (#1985 184 27)



May Mack (nee London). -- [ca. 1904]. (#1987 79 17)



Charles London Jr. -- [ca 1900]. (#1987 79 7)



Lucy, Florrie and May London. -- [ca 1911].
(#1987 79 11)



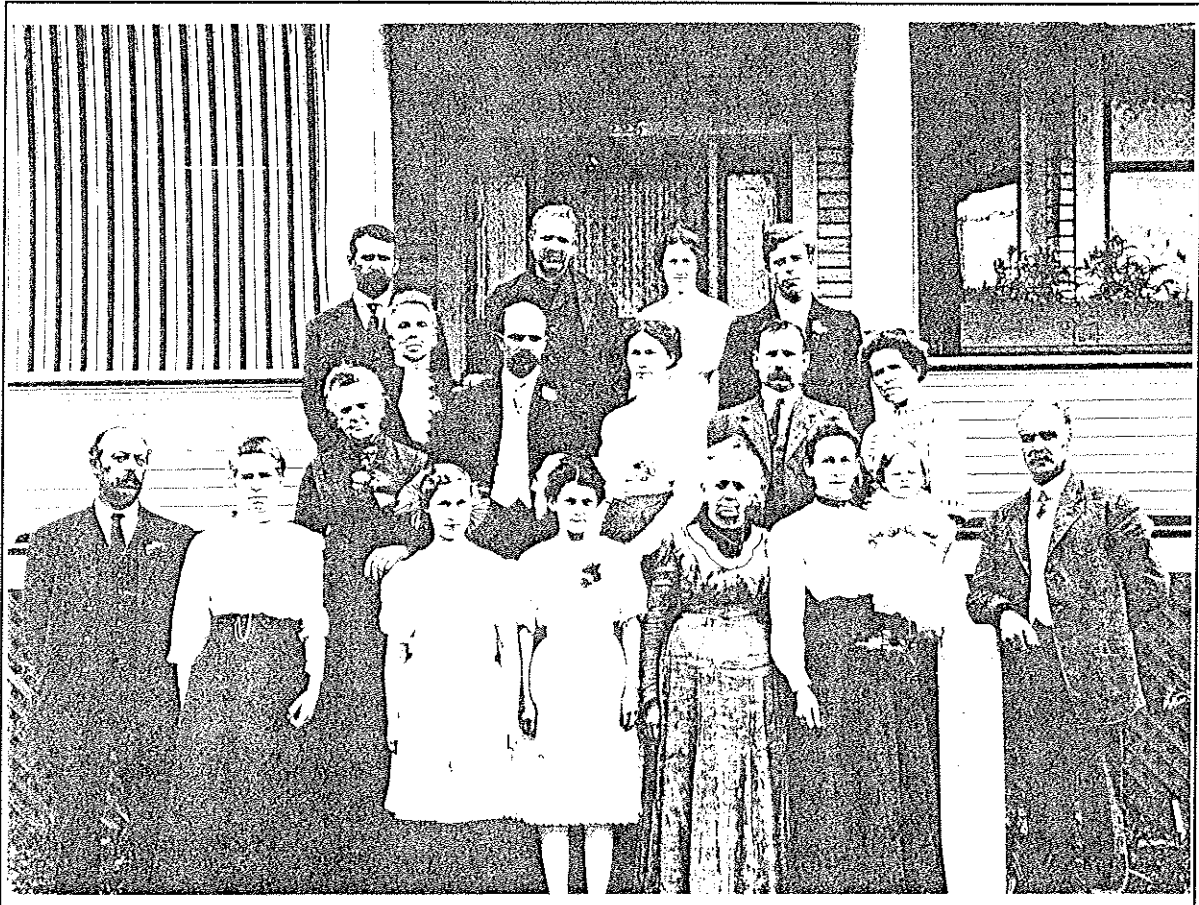
Lucy and May London. -- [ca. 1906]. (#1987 79 12)



Louie London. -- [ca. 1905]. (#1985 184 29)



Wedding portrait of Edwin and Winnie London. -- [ca. 1905]. (#1985 184 30)



London family reunion at Bryson's home in New Westminster. -- [ca. 1910]. (#1987 79 21)



Winnie London. -- [ca. 1910]. (#1985 184 31)



Mr. and Mrs. Charles London and family. -- [ca. 1915]. (#1985 194 32)



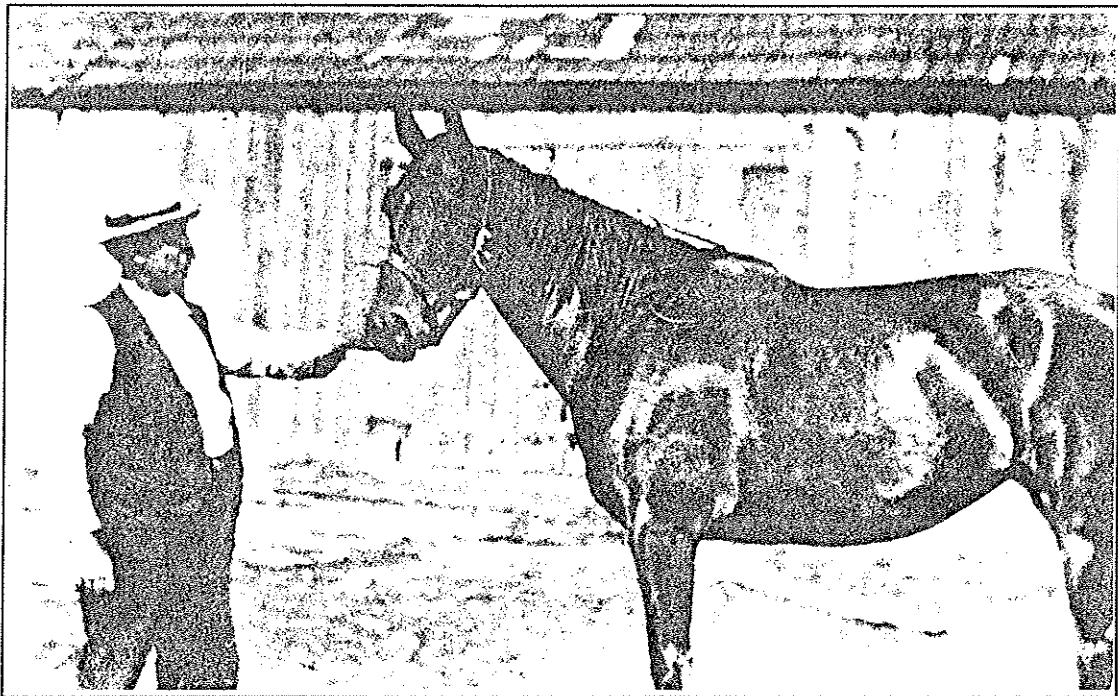
May London. -- 1929. (#1987 79 1)



May, Lucy and Florrie London. -- [ca. 1914].
(#1987 79 4)



Charles London.
-- [ca. 1930].
(#1987 79 5)



Charles E. London. -- [ca. 1920]. (#1985 187 9)



Lucy, May and Florrie London. -- [ca. 1920]. (#1985 187 8)



May Mack and cousin's child.
-- [ca. 1929]. (#1987 79 6)



May Mack (nee London). -- [ca 1921]. (#1987 79 18)



Howse family (l-r) Herbert, Joan, Frances, Joyce, Reginald and Lucy (nee London). -- [ca. 1929]. (#1987 79 20)



Florrie London. -- [ca. 1929]. (#1987 79 13)



Howse family. -- [ca. 1945]. (#1985 187 3)



Margaret Featherston, Florrie London, May London and Larry London. -- [ca. 1916]. (#1987 79 2)



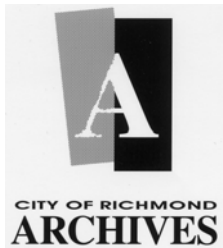
At the London farm house. -- [ca. 1945]. (#1985 187 4)



Child on a horse in front of the old water tower at London farm. -- [ca. 1945]. (#1985 187 10)

An appointment with the Archivist is required for records retrieval and assistance in research.

Reference Room open for independent study:
Monday through Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



7700 Minoru Gate
Richmond, B.C. V6Y 1R9
Phone: 604-247-8305
Email: archives@richmond.ca

www.richmond.ca/archives